

RV TRIPGEN

The Complete Guide to RV Travel in **Florida**

Snowbird capital, hurricane evacuation routes, US-1 to the Keys, state-park reservations that fill 11 months ahead, and no mountain passes anywhere.

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RV travel in Florida

Florida is the snowbird state. Half the RVs in the country pass through it between November and April, the state-park system is the most-booked in the US, the Everglades and the Keys are unique, and the roads are flat all the way from Pensacola to Key West. The catch is timing: the season everyone wants (Nov-Apr) is the season that books out 11 months in advance, the off-season (Jun-Oct) brings 90 F daytime humidity that rivals the southwest deserts, and hurricane season (Jun-Nov) can shut the whole peninsula inside 48 hours of a landfall warning. Plan early, plan flexibly, and Florida pays back the effort.

Florida by the numbers

Boondocking + dispersed sites	828
Established campgrounds	407
Dump stations	90
Propane refills	131
Potable water fill-ups	313
Laundromats	100
RV showers	100
Verified-bad spots (overnight prohibited)	204

Source: iOverlander community database (69% of Florida spots verified in the last 24 months).

Driving rules

Interstate (cars + RVs)	70 mph (most rural segments)
Florida Turnpike (rural)	70 mph
Interstate (towing)	Matches posted (no separate trailer limit)
US/State highway (cars + towing)	65 mph (posted)
Built-up areas + Keys US-1	30-55 mph (posted; US-1 averages 45-55 mph through the Keys)
Drive on	Right
Cell phone use while driving	Texting prohibited statewide; hands-free required in school + construction zones
Seatbelts	Required for front-seat occupants and all under-18

Highways

RV-friendly corridors

Highway	Note
I-75	Tampa Bay area to Naples and across Alligator Alley to Fort Lauderdale. Easy big-rig route. Watch fuel between Naples and Miami on Alligator Alley -- limited services for 75 miles.
I-95	Jacksonville to Miami. Heavy traffic Daytona-to-Palm Beach; expect rush-hour gridlock through Miami metro.
I-10	Pensacola to Jacksonville. Quiet by Florida standards, easy.
Florida Turnpike	Toll, fast, smooth. Worth the cost vs I-95 once you're south of Orlando.
US-19	Gulf Coast spine, Tampa to Tallahassee via Crystal River + the Big Bend. Slower than I-75 but quieter and more scenic.
US-1 through the Keys	Mile Marker 0 (Key West) to MM 113 (Florida City). Long but flat; 18 bridges including the Seven Mile Bridge. Wind closures rare but possible during tropical storms. Big rigs OK with patience -- expect 4-6 hours from Florida City to Key West despite only 113 miles.

RV-restricted segments

Segment	Restriction
A1A through Vilano Beach + St Augustine Beach	Tight, low-clearance pass-throughs in places. Big rigs over 35 ft should use US-1.
FL-A1A through Flagler Beach (storm-damaged sections)	Periodic closures and detours from coastal erosion; check FL511 before heading down.
Card Sound Road (alternate to US-1 Florida City entry)	Toll, narrow, single lane each way through 20 miles of swamp. Big rigs OK but slow. Useful as US-1 alternative if traffic is gridlocked at the Stretch.
Some Keys parks' interior roads (e.g. parts of Bahia Honda, Long Key)	Length-restricted to 28-32 ft on certain loops -- check the specific park's site map before booking.
Many barrier-island causeways (e.g. Sanibel)	Toll bridges with weight limits and tight turns at the far end. Verify your rig fits the access road and the campground in advance.

National parks + monuments

National Park / Monument	Entry fee	Reservation note
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Everglades NP	\$30/vehicle (7 days), \$80 America the Beautiful annual	Two main RV-accessible campgrounds: Long Pine Key (rigs to 35 ft, reservable Nov-Apr via recreation.gov) and Flamingo (rigs to 50 ft full-hookup, reservable; new full-hookup loop opened in 2023). Closest fuel/groceries are 30+ miles outside the park entrance at Florida City.
Big Cypress National Preserve	Free entry	Multiple primitive campgrounds along Loop Road and Tamiami Trail (US-41). Burns Lake + Midway are reservable; Pinecrest + Bear Island first-come, primitive. Rigs typically to 30-40 ft depending on site.
Biscayne NP	Free entry	No vehicle camping inside; access by boat only. Stay at nearby Homestead RV parks or in the Keys.
Dry Tortugas NP (Garden Key)	\$15/person	Boat or seaplane access from Key West only. No vehicles. Note for completeness.
Canaveral National Seashore	\$20/vehicle (7 days)	Backcountry beach camping by permit only -- not RV-accessible. Stay at nearby Titusville KOA or Manatee Hammock county park.
Gulf Islands National Seashore (FL section)	\$25/vehicle (7 days)	Fort Pickens Campground reservable; rigs to 40 ft full-hookup. Rivals the best of the FL state-park beach camping.
Castillo de San Marcos NM (St Augustine)	\$15/adult	No camping; nearby Anastasia State Park.
De Soto NMem (Bradenton)	Free entry	No camping; nearby Fort De Soto county park (excellent).
Timucuan EcoHistoric Preserve (Jacksonville)	Free entry	No NPS campgrounds; stay at Little Talbot Island SP.

State parks

Florida State Parks operates 175+ parks, the second-most-visited state-park system in the country. Reservations open 11 months ahead at floridastateparks.reserveamerica.com and the popular ones (Bahia Honda, Long Key, Curry Hammock, Anastasia, St George Island, Bill Baggs, Myakka River, Wekiwa Springs, Sebastian Inlet, Henderson Beach) book out within minutes of the window opening. Day-use \$4-8. Camping \$20-45. The 11-month booking window is the single most important Florida planning fact -- if you do not book on day-of-opening at 8am ET, you will not get the popular sites.

Boondocking + dispersed camping

BLM: Florida has effectively no BLM land. Federal-land boondocking is not a Florida option. Workarounds: Walmart / Cracker Barrel overnight where store policy allows (call first; many south-FL Walmarts now refuse), Cabela's + Bass Pro lots, casino lots (Seminole properties), Harvest Hosts memberships. The South Florida snowbird density makes free overnight harder than in the rest of the country -- most snowbirds stay in commercial parks for the season.

National Forest: Three National Forests: Apalachicola (the largest, panhandle), Ocala (central FL, north of Orlando), Osceola (NE FL near Lake City). All permit dispersed camping along forest roads with a 14-day stay limit. Ocala NF has multiple developed campgrounds (Salt Springs, Juniper Springs, Alexander Springs) plus dispersed; the springs are extraordinary. Bug season (mosquitoes + no-see-ums) is brutal Apr-Oct -- bring screens that actually fit and DEET that's actually strong.

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

Tribal lands

Two federally-recognized tribes in FL: Seminole (Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood, Immokalee, Tampa reservations) and Miccosukee (US-41 Tamiami Trail). Big Cypress RV Resort (Seminole) and Miccosukee RV Park along US-41 are full-hookup and accept big rigs. Both tribes operate casinos. Dispersed camping is not permitted on tribal land.

Propane, dump stations, fuel

Propane: Plentiful statewide. Tractor Supply, U-Haul, and most KOA / Good Sam parks fill on-site. Snowbird belt has seasonal queues at popular fillers Dec-Feb -- factor in 30-60 minutes if you arrive at peak. The Keys have limited refill options; fill in Florida City or Key Largo before heading further south.

Dump stations: Dense in every Florida region. Most state parks have free dump stations for registered guests. Flying J / Pilot stations on I-10, I-75, I-95, and the Turnpike charge \$10-15. Many Florida county parks (Manatee, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Lee) operate full-hookup RV parks with dump stations -- often better value than state parks if you can find availability.

Fuel: Diesel and gas widely available along all interstates, the Turnpike, and US highways. Notable fuel gaps: Alligator Alley (I-75 Naples to Fort Lauderdale) has only one rest-area refuelling option for 75 miles -- top up before either end; US-41 (Tamiami Trail) through Big Cypress has very limited fuel between Naples and Miami; the lower Keys (south of Marathon) thin out for fuel options. Fuel prices typically lowest in Jacksonville + Tampa metros; highest in the Keys and tourist towns.

Weather windows

Best months: November through April statewide. Dry, daytime highs 65-80 F (cooler in the panhandle, warmer in the Keys). Bugs minimal. Hurricane risk effectively zero. This is also peak demand -- book everything months ahead.

Avoid: June through October -- daily 90+ F with 80%+ humidity, daily afternoon thunderstorms, peak hurricane season Aug-Oct, peak bug season. May and November are shoulder months: lower demand, mostly tolerable temps, rising hurricane risk in late spring and lingering bugs in early autumn.

Climate caution

If a named storm enters the eastern Gulf or western Atlantic and is forecast to track toward Florida, you have 48-72 hours to leave the cone or relocate inland to a non-evacuation zone. Mandatory evacuation orders override any RV-park reservation. Fuel and propane run short on evacuation routes within 12 hours of an evacuation order. Top up early; consider leaving 24 hours before the official mandatory order rather than getting stuck in the queue.

Emergency + road conditions

State patrol	Dial 9-1-1 for emergencies; *FHP (*347) from a cell phone for non-emergency state patrol
Road conditions	https://fl511.com

How RV TripGen helps

11-month booking calendar built in

RV TripGen flags the booking-open date for every Florida state-park overnight in your plan and prompts you the morning the window opens, so the headline parks don't slip away.

Hurricane-season inland alternates

Every coastal Florida overnight Jun-Nov has an inland alternate flagged so an evacuation order doesn't cancel the whole trip. We track active NHC advisories during your trip dates.