



RV TRIPGEN

The Complete Guide to
RV Travel in
Indiana

Indiana Dunes NP on Lake Michigan, Hoosier NF in the south, Amish horse-and-buggy country, Brown County in the fall, and the RV-manufacturing capital of the world.

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RV travel in Indiana

Indiana has the unusual distinction of being the manufacturing capital of the American RV industry -- the Elkhart / Goshen area in the north builds the majority of the Class A, Class C, and travel-trailer rigs sold in North America. The RV/MH Hall of Fame and Museum in Elkhart is worth a day. Indiana Dunes National Park (redesignated from National Lakeshore in 2019) sits on the southern shore of Lake Michigan with a mix of beach, dunes, and prairie. Hoosier NF covers the south-central limestone country and has decent dispersed camping. Brown County State Park in the south is one of the most popular fall-colour destinations in the Midwest. Northern Indiana is also the largest Amish settlement after Holmes County OH -- expect horse-and-buggy traffic on rural state highways through LaGrange and Elkhart counties, and adjust your driving accordingly. Winter (Dec-Feb) closes most state-park RV loops and brings lake-effect snow off Lake Michigan onto the northwest corner.

Indiana by the numbers

Boondocking + dispersed sites	216
Established campgrounds	89
Dump stations	23
Propane refills	12
Potable water fill-ups	32
Laundromats	13
RV showers	11
Verified-bad spots (overnight prohibited)	4

Source: iOverlander community database (67% of Indiana spots verified in the last 24 months).

Driving rules

Interstate (cars + RVs)	70 mph
Interstate (trucks + towing)	65 mph
US/State highway	55-60 mph (posted)
Indiana Toll Road (I-80/I-90)	70 mph (cars), 65 mph (trucks/towing); E-ZPass works
Built-up areas	25-35 mph (posted)
Drive on	Right
Seatbelts	Required for all front-seat occupants and all under-16 in any seat

Cell phone use while driving	Hands-free only (banned hand-held statewide as of 2020)
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Highways

RV-friendly corridors

Highway	Note
I-65	Louisville to Gary via Indianapolis. Easy big-rig route, the standard north-south transit through the state.
I-69	Evansville to Indianapolis (now extended through Bloomington), then Indianapolis to Fort Wayne to Michigan line. Easy, mostly 4-lane.
I-70	Ohio line to Illinois line via Indianapolis. Easy big-rig route.
I-74	Cincinnati to Indianapolis to Illinois line at Champaign. Easy.
I-80 / I-90 (Indiana Toll Road)	Ohio line to Illinois line via South Bend. Toll, well-maintained, fastest east-west across northern Indiana. E-ZPass works.
I-94	Michigan line via Michigan City to Illinois line at Hammond. Heavy commuter traffic Gary-to-Chicago; plan around rush hour.
I-465 (Indianapolis Beltway)	Use it to avoid downtown. Heavy 6-9am and 3-7pm; big rigs OK off-peak.
US-31	South Bend to Indianapolis. Now mostly limited-access; easy big-rig route.
US-30	Ohio line to Illinois line via Fort Wayne, Warsaw, and Valparaiso. Major truck route, easy.
US-41	Evansville to Hammond. Easy, the western Indiana spine.

RV-restricted segments

Segment	Restriction
Amish country secondary roads (Shipshewana, Middlebury, Nappanee, Berne)	Heavy horse-and-buggy traffic on weekends and Sundays. Not dangerous for RVs but slow; reduce speed to 25-35 mph and pass with extra clearance -- buggies are wide and horses can spook.
Brown County SP interior roads	Some loops length-restricted to 30-35 ft, especially on Schooner Trace. Check site map before booking.
Indiana Dunes NP interior dune roads	Most parking lots and access roads accommodate standard rigs; the Dunewood Campground inside the NP is small (rigs to 35 ft) and books out summer weekends.
Tippecanoe River SP access road	Tight, twisty access; rigs over 35 ft check current state-park posting.
Many rural county roads in southern Indiana hill country	Narrow, no shoulder, sharp blind curves. Stick to state highways and US routes.

National parks + monuments

National Park / Monument	Entry fee	Reservation note
Indiana Dunes NP	\$25/vehicle (7 days), \$80 America the Beautiful annual	Dunewood Campground (NPS) reservable Apr-Oct via recreation.gov; rigs to 35 ft, 66 sites. The adjacent Indiana Dunes State Park (Indiana DNR, separate booking via Indiana State Parks) has a larger campground with electric hookups, also rigs to 50 ft -- the two parks share the shoreline and most visitors don't notice the boundary. Beach access is at multiple locations along US-12 / IN-49; rig parking at West Beach lot is biggest.
Lincoln Boyhood NMem (Lincoln City, southern IN)	\$10/vehicle (7 days)	Day-use only inside the memorial. Stay at Lincoln State Park next door (Indiana DNR), which has full-hookup RV camping and access to the same boyhood-cabin trails.
George Rogers Clark NHP (Vincennes)	Free entry	Day-use only. Stay at Ouabache Trails Park (county) or commercial parks in Vincennes.

State parks

Indiana State Parks (DNR) operates 24 parks plus 9 state forests with RV camping. Standout RV parks: Brown County SP (the headline park, central IN south of Indianapolis, the fall-colour magnet, full hookups), Indiana Dunes SP (Lake Michigan shore, full hookups, adjacent to and often easier than Indiana Dunes NP's Dunewood), Turkey Run SP (Sugar Creek canyons, full hookups, popular weekenders), Shades SP (next to Turkey Run, quieter), McCormick's Creek SP (the original 1916 Indiana State Park, full hookups), Spring Mill SP (limestone caves and pioneer village), Lincoln SP (next to Lincoln Boyhood NMem), Pokagon SP (northeast IN lake country, full hookups), Indiana Dunes / Tippecanoe River / Versailles / Whitewater Memorial / Lake Monroe (multiple loops). Reservations open 6 months ahead at camp.in.gov. Day-use \$7 in-state / \$9 out-of-state. Camping \$20-40.

Boondocking + dispersed camping

BLM: Indiana has effectively no BLM land. Federal-land dispersed camping is via Hoosier NF -- see NF summary. Practical workarounds: Walmart and Cracker Barrel overnight (Indiana is generally permissive outside the Indianapolis metro), Harvest Hosts at IN wineries and farms, Boondockers Welcome statewide, the Elkhart-Goshen area RV-manufacturer factory tours often offer overnight parking at adjacent lots (call ahead -- Jayco, Forest River, Winnebago Towables, Newmar, Tiffin facilities have varying policies).

National Forest: Hoosier NF is the only NF in Indiana -- about 204,000 acres across nine south-central counties (Monroe, Brown, Crawford, Jackson, Lawrence, Martin, Orange, Perry, Dubois). Free dispersed camping along forest roads with a 14-day stay limit; most dispersed sites accept rigs to 25-30 ft (forest roads are narrower than the western NFs). Developed campgrounds: Hardin Ridge (Lake Monroe, rigs to 40 ft, reservable, the largest), Tipsaw Lake (rigs to 35 ft, reservable), Celina Lake (rigs to 35 ft, reservable), Saddle Lake (small primitive). The Charles C. Deam Wilderness peripheries have dispersed pull-offs.

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

Tribal lands

Indiana has only one federally-recognized tribe with reservation land in the state: the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, headquartered in Dowagiac MI but with reservation parcels in northwest Indiana (South Bend area). The Pokagon Band operates the Four Winds Casinos in South Bend and Hartford; the South Bend casino has an adjacent hotel but no dedicated RV park. Pre-removal Native heritage sites (Mounds State Park at Anderson, Angel Mounds at Evansville) are state-park and state-museum day-use sites. The Miami Tribe (Myaamia) is federally-recognized but headquartered in Oklahoma after removal; their ancestral homeland was Indiana.

Propane, dump stations, fuel

Propane: Plentiful statewide. Tractor Supply in every county seat, U-Haul in every metro. Most KOA, Sun, and Good Sam parks fill on-site. The Elkhart-Goshen RV-manufacturing corridor has more propane fillers per square mile than any other part of the country -- if you have a rare or odd-fitting tank, this is where to come. No notable propane gaps in Indiana.

Dump stations: Dense statewide. Most Indiana State Parks with RV camping have free dump stations for registered guests. Flying J / Pilot / Love's / TA truck stops along the interstates and toll road charge \$10-15 for non-guest dumps. RV-manufacturer service centers in Elkhart often have dump stations for paying customers; non-guests pay \$10-15.

Fuel: Diesel and gas widely available statewide -- one of the densest road networks in the US, like Ohio. No significant fuel gaps. The Indiana Toll Road service plazas (Travel Plaza by IN Toll Road) are convenient but typically 20-40 cents/gallon more than off-toll-road. Fuel prices typically lowest along I-65 / I-69 corridors, highest near Brown County in fall and Indiana Dunes in summer.

Weather windows

Best months: Late May through mid-June, and mid-September through October. Daytime highs 65-80 F, low humidity in fall, fall colour peaks mid-Oct in southern Indiana (Brown County, Hoosier NF) and late Oct in the Lake Michigan corridor.

Avoid: December-February statewide are cold and snowy; lake-effect snow off Lake Michigan can blast the northwest corner (Hammond, Gary, Michigan City, La Porte) with 24+ inches in a day. July-August can hit 90+ F with humidity statewide; mosquitoes thick in the Kankakee marshes. Spring (March-April) is mud season in Hoosier NF -- many forest roads are too soft.

Climate caution

Spring tornadoes are a real Indiana risk -- the state sits at the eastern edge of Tornado Alley and the F5 Henryville tornado of 2012 levelled a southern Indiana town. April-June peak. Have a NOAA weather radio with battery backup, know the campground's storm-shelter location (Indiana State Parks list shelters on each park's page), and have a get-low plan that does NOT involve your RV. The Indianapolis NWS office covers most of the state.

Emergency + road conditions

State patrol	Dial 9-1-1 for emergencies; (317) 232-8248 for Indiana State Police HQ non-emergency
Road conditions	https://indianadot.com/trafficwise

How RV TripGen helps

Amish-country speed-and-pass guidance

RV Tripgen flags Amish-country routes through northern Indiana (LaGrange, Elkhart, southern Indiana Daviess County) and suggests Saturday/Sunday morning route alternatives so you're not stuck behind a queue of buggies on a Sunday.

Elkhart RV-factory tour scheduling

RV Tripgen surfaces RV-factory tour openings (Jayco, Newmar, Tiffin, Winnebago Towables, Grand Design) at Elkhart-area manufacturers for any northern Indiana overnight in your plan -- a free morning tour, often with a free coffee. Mecca for the RV-curious.