

RV TRIPGEN

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

Acadia reservations 6 months out, lobster-pound parking math,
Route 1 coastal grind, and how to avoid the foliage-week price gouge.

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RV travel in Maine

Maine is the Northeast's RV jewel and its toughest logistical puzzle. Acadia National Park, the lighthouse coast, the Allagash, and the lobster-shack circuit are unique to this state -- but the season is short, the popular sites book out 6 months ahead, US-1 north of Brunswick narrows into two-lane tourist crawl, and most RV parks shut between mid-October and mid-May. The interior (Moosehead Lake, Baxter, Rangeley) is genuinely remote: bring extra fuel and propane. Plan Acadia reservations the day Recreation.gov opens them, treat coastal Route 1 in July-August as a 25 mph experience, and Maine pays back the patience with the best scenery on the eastern seaboard.

Maine by the numbers

Boondocking + dispersed sites	275
Established campgrounds	110
Dump stations	16
Propane refills	35
Potable water fill-ups	49
Laundromats	24
RV showers	23
Verified-bad spots (overnight prohibited)	59

Source: iOverlander community database (71% of Maine spots verified in the last 24 months).

Driving rules

Interstate (cars)	75 mph (I-95 north of Augusta; 70 mph south)
Interstate (trucks + towing)	Matches posted (no separate trailer limit)
US/State highway (cars + towing)	55 mph default; 45-50 mph on most coastal Route 1
Built-up areas	25-35 mph (posted; many coastal villages 25 mph)
Drive on	Right
Seatbelts	Required for all front-seat occupants and all under-18
Cell phone use while driving	Hands-free only; texting prohibited statewide

Highways

RV-friendly corridors

Highway	Note
I-95 (Maine Turnpike south of Augusta)	Toll, smooth, fast. Kittery to Augusta is the Maine Turnpike; RV tolls run \$5-12 depending on axles. Best route north.
I-295	Portland to Gardiner alternate that avoids the Maine Turnpike toll between Brunswick and Augusta. Slightly slower, free, scenic glimpses of Casco Bay.
US-1 south of Brunswick	Mostly four-lane through York and Wells. Manageable for big rigs outside peak July-August weekends.
US-2	Bangor to Bethel via Newport and Rumford. Two-lane but wide shoulders; main east-west route through western mountains. Snow common Nov-Apr.
ME-9 (the Airline)	Bangor to Calais (Canada border). Remote two-lane through 90 miles of forest with minimal services -- fuel up in Bangor. Wide enough for big rigs, dangerous at dusk for moose.

RV-restricted segments

Segment	Restriction
US-1 north of Brunswick (July-August)	Two-lane tourist crawl through Wiscasset, Camden, Belfast. Big rigs are legal but everyone behind you will hate you. Use I-95 to Belfast instead and rejoin Route 1 north.
ME-3 onto Mount Desert Island (peak season)	Manageable but jammed July-August. Park-and-ride at Trenton or use the Island Explorer shuttle from your campground -- much easier than driving the RV into Bar Harbor.
Park Loop Road (Acadia NP)	21 ft length limit on Cadillac Summit Road. Rigs over 21 ft prohibited; trailers must be dropped at lots below. Park Loop one-way sections are tight for anything over 30 ft.
ME-17 through Height of Land (Rangeley)	Steep grades and tight switchbacks descending into Rangeley. Trailers over 35 ft should approach from US-2/ME-4 instead.
Most coastal lighthouse access roads	Pemaquid, Owls Head, Marshall Point all have tight final approaches. Park at the visitor lot in your tow car or unhitch.

Mountain passes

Pass	Elevation	Note
Height of Land (ME-17, Rangeley)	2400 ft	Steep 7-8% descent into Rangeley with tight switchbacks. Big rigs use US-2/ME-4 instead.
Grafton Notch (ME-26)	1500 ft	Two-lane through Grafton Notch SP. Manageable for most rigs but tight at the height-of-land. Snow Nov-Apr.

Evans Notch (ME-113)	1500 ft	Closed in winter (Nov-May). Single-lane sections; not for rigs over 35 ft.
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National parks + monuments

National Park / Monument	Entry fee	Reservation note
Acadia NP	\$35/vehicle (7 days); \$80 America the Beautiful annual	Vehicle reservation required for Cadillac Summit Road sunrise + sunset slots May-Oct via recreation.gov, \$6 booking fee. Blackwoods, Seawall, and Schoodic Woods campgrounds all reservable 2 months ahead. RVs limited to 35 ft at Blackwoods, 35 ft at Seawall, 35 ft at Schoodic. Park Loop has 21 ft limit on Cadillac Summit Road.
Saint Croix Island IHS	Free entry	Day-use only, no camping. Small interpretive park on the New Brunswick border near Calais.
Katahdin Woods and Waters NM	Free entry	Remote BLM-style monument east of Baxter SP. Dispersed primitive camping; no developed RV sites. Bring everything, including extra fuel -- nearest pump is 30+ miles in Patten or Millinocket.
Appalachian National Scenic Trail (corridor)	Free	Trail crosses ME-27, ME-17, ME-4. Trailhead parking only; no RV camping on the corridor itself.

State parks

Maine State Parks operates 48 parks and historic sites; about 12 have RV camping. Sebago Lake, Lily Bay (Moosehead), Lamoine (near Acadia), and Cobscook Bay are the popular RV-camping units. Reservable up to 4 months in advance via campwithme.com (state-park reservation portal). Non-resident day-use \$6-8/vehicle, camping \$25-35/night with no hookups (Maine state parks rarely have hookups -- bring your tanks ready).

Boondocking + dispersed camping

BLM: No significant BLM land in Maine. The state is almost entirely private timberland or state-managed forest. Free dispersed camping in the legal sense exists only on commercial timber-company land (North Maine Woods, Inc. checkpoints, \$14-18/night camping fee for non-residents) and on a handful of public reserved lands.

National Forest: No National Forest in Maine. The functional substitute is the North Maine Woods commercial-forest road system (Allagash, Telos, Chamberlain). Access via gated checkpoints; \$10-12/day road fee plus camping fees. White Mountain NF technically clips into Maine at Evans Notch (ME-113), where free dispersed camping along forest roads is permitted in the WMNF corridor.

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

Tribal lands

Maine recognises four tribal nations: Penobscot (Indian Island near Old Town), Passamaquoddy (Sipayik/Pleasant Point and Indian Township), Maliseet (Houlton), and Micmac (Presque Isle area). Tribal lands are sovereign; some sell fishing/hunting permits to non-tribal members. Indian Island has a small museum worth visiting. Dispersed camping on tribal land is generally not permitted without prior arrangement.

Propane, dump stations, fuel

Propane: Plentiful in Portland, Bangor, Augusta, and along I-95. Sparse north of Bangor and in the Allagash region -- top up in Bangor or Millinocket before heading into the interior. Most coastal RV parks fill on-site. U-Haul locations in Augusta, Bangor, and Portland are reliable for refills.

Dump stations: Reasonable coverage in southern Maine and along I-95. Most Maine State Parks with camping offer free dump stations for registered guests. Truck stops at Kittery (I-95 Mile 1), Augusta, and Howland have fee dump stations (\$10-15). Sparse north of Bangor -- empty before heading to Baxter or the Allagash.

Fuel: Diesel and gas widely available along I-95, US-1 south of Bangor, and US-2. Genuinely sparse on ME-9 (the Airline -- 90 miles between Bangor and Calais with minimal services), on the road into Baxter SP from Millinocket, and throughout the Allagash region. Carry an extra 5-10 gallons for the North Maine Woods. Fuel prices typically lowest near the New Hampshire border in Kittery (no sales tax) and highest in Bar Harbor and along the coastal tourist strip.

Weather windows

Best months: Late June through mid-October. Daytime highs 65-80 F on the coast, cooler inland. Foliage peaks late September to mid-October -- book 6-12 months ahead for that window.

Avoid: Mid-November through mid-April. Most coastal RV parks close. Snow common; nighttime lows in the teens or single digits. Black-fly season (mid-May to mid-June) makes interior camping miserable -- bring head nets if you must be there.

Climate caution

Acadia's Cadillac Summit Road sunrise vehicle reservations sell out within minutes of release. Set a recreation.gov alarm for 90 days before your target date.

Emergency + road conditions

State patrol	Dial *MSP (*677) from a cell phone for non-emergency state police; 911 for emergencies
Road conditions	https://www.newengland511.org

How RV TripGen helps

Acadia reservation timing built into your route

RV TripGen flags Acadia overnight stops and Cadillac Summit Road vehicle-reservation deadlines on your itinerary, so you don't show up the day they sold out.

Foliage-week pricing flagged before you book

RV TripGen surfaces Maine RV-park rates during late September and early October foliage weeks (often 2-3x off-season), so you can shift dates or pre-book early.