



RV TRIPGEN

The Complete Guide to
RV Travel in
Maryland

Assateague's wild horses, Chesapeake Bay crab country, the Bay Bridge crosswind warnings, and a state-park system that's one of the best-kept secrets on the East Coast.

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RV travel in Maryland

Maryland gives you more variety per square mile than almost anywhere on the Eastern Seaboard. The Atlantic at Assateague with its famous wild horses, the Chesapeake Bay with crab shacks and watermen's wharves, the C&O Canal towpath running 184 miles from Washington DC to Cumberland, and the Allegheny ridges at Deep Creek Lake all sit inside three hours' drive of each other. The state-park system is RV-friendly and underrated. The two big RV gotchas are the Chesapeake Bay Bridge (US-50 east, prone to crosswind closures for high-profile vehicles) and the dense, expensive I-95 / I-495 corridor between Baltimore and Washington where transient overnight camping is essentially impossible. Plan the coastal and western legs around those constraints and Maryland is a strong stop.

Maryland by the numbers

Boondocking + dispersed sites	100
Established campgrounds	57
Dump stations	13
Propane refills	17
Potable water fill-ups	19
Laundromats	10
RV showers	6
Verified-bad spots (overnight prohibited)	7

Source: iOverlander community database (63% of Maryland spots verified in the last 24 months).

Driving rules

Interstate (cars + RVs)	70 mph (most rural segments)
Interstate (towing/trailers)	70 mph (matches posted)
US/State highway	55-65 mph (posted)
Bay Bridge (US-50/301 over Chesapeake)	50 mph (high-wind restrictions for high-profile vehicles, see callout)
Built-up areas	25-35 mph (posted)
Drive on	Right
Seatbelts	Required for all occupants in all seats
Cell phone use while driving	Hands-free only (banned hand-held statewide)

Highways

RV-friendly corridors

Highway	Note
I-95	Northeast corridor through Baltimore. Toll at Fort McHenry Tunnel and JFK Memorial Highway -- E-ZPass strongly recommended. Heavy traffic 6-9am and 3-7pm; plan around it.
I-70	Frederick to the Pennsylvania line via Hagerstown. Easy big-rig route west out of the Baltimore-DC area.
I-68	Hancock to West Virginia line via Cumberland (the National Freeway). Crosses the Allegheny ridges with sustained 6% grades on Sideling Hill and Big Savage Mountain -- lower gears descending, watch coolant climbing.
I-83	Baltimore to the Pennsylvania line. Easy big-rig route.
I-97	Baltimore to Annapolis. Short, easy, gets you to the Bay Bridge approach.
I-495 / I-695 (Capital and Baltimore Beltways)	Necessary evil for through-traffic; both beltways are heavy commuter routes 6-9am and 3-7pm. Big rigs OK off-peak.
US-50	Annapolis across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge to Ocean City. The main RV route to Assateague and the Eastern Shore. Bay Bridge crosswind closures common Oct-Mar -- see callout.
US-301	Eastern Shore alternate north-south. Quieter than I-95, easy big-rig route to Delaware and points north.
I-81 (panhandle)	Brief Maryland segment near Hagerstown. Heavy truck traffic, easy.

RV-restricted segments

Segment	Restriction
Chesapeake Bay Bridge (US-50 eastbound)	50 mph posted, closes or restricts high-profile vehicles when sustained winds exceed 40 mph or gusts exceed 55 mph. Check the bridge wind status on the Maryland Transportation Authority site before crossing -- failed crossings have happened.
US-50 through downtown Ocean City	Tight beach grid south of the inlet. Park at the Convention Center or Inlet lot and walk; do not take a Class A south of 17th Street in summer.
MD-77 through Catoctin Mountain Park	Twisty mountain road; tight switchbacks. Rigs over 30 ft should approach Catoctin from US-15 / MD-550 instead.
Skyline Drive of MD (Bald Knob / Garrett ridge roads)	Narrow, unfenced ridge roads through Garrett County. Not for towables or Class A. Use I-68 / US-219 / US-40 alternates.
C&O; Canal towpath	Hiking and biking only; RVs prohibited (no surprise).

Mountain passes

Pass	Elevation	Note
Sideling Hill (I-68)	1612 ft	Spectacular road cut through the ridge; sustained 6% grades east and west. Easy at posted speed; engine-brake descending.
Big Savage Mountain (I-68)	2890 ft	Highest point on I-68 in MD. 6% grade descending eastbound; truck-runaway ramps present.
Backbone Mountain summit (US-219)	3220 ft	Highest point in Maryland. Easy at posted speed in summer; winter snow closures on the side roads.

National parks + monuments

National Park / Monument	Entry fee	Reservation note
Assateague Island National Seashore (MD district)	\$25/vehicle (7 days), \$80 America the Beautiful annual	Bayside, Oceanside North, and Oceanside South campgrounds reservable Mar-Nov via recreation.gov; first-come Dec-Feb. Rigs to 35 ft on most loops. The Maryland district shares the barrier island with Assateague State Park (separate booking via Maryland State Parks; full hookups, often easier to get). Famous wild horses roam camp -- secure food and water; do not feed them, fines + tickets enforced.
Catoctin Mountain Park (NPS)	Free entry	Owens Creek Campground reservable Apr-Nov via recreation.gov; rigs to 25 ft only (steep, twisty access). Camp Misty Mount cabins also available. Note: Cunningham Falls SP next door takes bigger rigs.
Antietam National Battlefield	\$10/vehicle (3 days)	No camping inside the battlefield. Stay at Greenbrier State Park or commercial parks in Hagerstown.
Harpers Ferry NHP (MD side)	\$20/vehicle (3 days)	The historic town is in West Virginia; the Maryland Heights ridge is the spectacular view. No camping in the park. Stay across the river in WV at Harpers Ferry KOA or in MD at the C&O; Canal Brunswick area.
C&O; Canal NHP	Free entry (most areas)	Hiker-biker campsites along the 184-mile towpath are walk/bike-in only; no RV camping. Use the parallel commercial and state-park camping along US-340 and I-70.
Fort McHenry NM and Historic Shrine	\$15/adult	Day-use only; no camping. The Star-Spangled Banner birthplace, in Baltimore Harbor.
Chesapeake & Ohio Canal NHP -- visitor centers	Free entry	Multiple visitor centers Cumberland to DC; day-use only.

Hampton NHS

Free entry

Day-use only, near Towson.

State parks

Maryland State Parks (Department of Natural Resources) operates 75+ parks, 20+ with RV-accessible camping. Standout RV parks: Assateague SP (oceanside, full hookups, often easier to book than the adjacent NPS Assateague Island), Cunningham Falls (Catoctin foothills, reservable), Elk Neck (head of the Chesapeake near North East), Janes Island (Eastern Shore paddling base, full hookups), Point Lookout (where the Potomac meets the Bay), Deep Creek Lake (western mountains, full hookups), New Germany (Garrett County), Greenbrier (Hagerstown area). Reservations open 12 months ahead at parkreservations.maryland.gov. Day-use \$3-7. Camping \$25-45 standard, \$40-55 full hookup.

Boondocking + dispersed camping

BLM: Maryland has no BLM land. Federal-land dispersed camping is not a Maryland option. Practical workarounds: Cracker Barrel and Walmart overnight outside the Baltimore-DC corridor (overnight refusals are common inside the Beltway), Harvest Hosts and Boondockers Welcome hosts in western Maryland and on the Eastern Shore, and the Maryland State Forest system (see NF note).

National Forest: No National Forests in Maryland. The closest dispersed NF camping is George Washington NF in Virginia or Monongahela NF in West Virginia. Maryland State Forests (Savage River, Green Ridge, Potomac, Pocomoke, Garrett) offer primitive permit-only camping -- backcountry-style, designated sites, no hookups, \$10/night via mdstateforests.reserveamerica.com. Green Ridge SF (Cumberland area) has 100+ designated primitive sites along forest roads; the best informal-feel boondocking in Maryland.

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

Tribal lands

Maryland has no federally-recognized tribes with reservation land within the state. The Piscataway Indian Nation and Piscataway Conoy Tribe are state-recognized but do not operate reservation lands relevant to RV travel. Native heritage sites (Piscataway Park near Accokeek, Calvert Indian artifacts at Jefferson Patterson Park) are day-use only.

Propane, dump stations, fuel

Propane: Plentiful in the Baltimore-Washington corridor and along I-70/I-95. Tractor Supply and U-Haul in every county seat. Most KOA, Sun, and Good Sam parks fill on-site. Thin out in deep Garrett County (Deep Creek Lake) -- top up in Cumberland or LaVale before heading to the lake.

Dump stations: Adequate state-wide. Maryland State Parks with RV camping have free dump stations for registered guests (Elk Neck, Cunningham Falls, Greenbrier, Pocomoke River, Assateague SP, Janes Island, Point Lookout, New Germany, Deep Creek Lake). Flying J / Pilot stations along I-95 and I-70 charge \$10-15 for non-guest dumps. Commercial parks on the Eastern Shore (Sun Outdoors Frontier Town, Castaways) accept non-guest dumps in season.

Fuel: Diesel and gas widely available statewide. No significant fuel gaps. Maryland fuel taxes are mid-pack on the East Coast -- cheaper than Pennsylvania, more expensive than Virginia or Delaware. The Baltimore Beltway (I-695) and Capital Beltway (I-495) have stop-and-go that wrecks mileage; plan fuel

before entering at rush hour. Fuel prices typically lowest along I-95 north of Baltimore, highest near Ocean City in summer.

Weather windows

Best months: Late April through mid-June, and mid-September through October. Daytime highs 65-80 F, humidity manageable, bugs moderate, hurricane risk low except in September.

Avoid: July and August are 90+ F with 80%+ humidity statewide; the Eastern Shore adds biting flies and mosquitoes. January-February in the mountains (Garrett County, Allegany) see heavy snow and frequent road closures on I-68 and US-219 -- not impossible for an experienced winter rig but plan around it.

Climate caution

Chesapeake Bay Bridge wind closures and Atlantic crosswinds: US-50 east across the Bay Bridge restricts or closes high-profile vehicles when sustained winds exceed 40 mph or gusts exceed 55 mph. Check baybridge.maryland.gov / MDTA wind status before approaching. If closed, your only Eastern Shore alternates are US-301 via the Delaware Memorial Bridge (long detour) or a 4-hour drive around the head of the bay. Plan the leg into your morning, not your afternoon, and have a fallback overnight at Sandy Point State Park on the western shore if you get turned around.

Emergency + road conditions

State patrol

Dial 9-1-1 for emergencies; #77 from a cell phone for Maryland State Police non-emergency

Road conditions

<https://chart.maryland.gov>

How RV TripGen helps

Bay Bridge crosswind warnings tracked

RV Tripgen flags any Bay Bridge crossing in your plan and pulls the MDTA wind-status forecast so you know to reroute via US-301 / Delaware Memorial Bridge if closures look likely on your travel day.

Assateague double-booking option

RV Tripgen surfaces Assateague State Park (Maryland DNR) alongside Assateague Island National Seashore (NPS) for every Assateague overnight in your plan -- the state-park side is often available when the federal side is full, with full hookups and the same wild horses.