

RV TRIPGEN

The Complete Guide to
RV Travel in

Massachusetts

Cape Cod reservations 11 months out, Mass Pike axle tolls,
Boston is unrideable, and the Berkshires are the reason you came.

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RV travel in Massachusetts

Massachusetts is two states in an RV: the eastern half (Boston, the Cape, the South Shore) is one of the most expensive and traffic-choked regions in the country, and the western half (the Berkshires, the Pioneer Valley, the Mohawk Trail) is genuinely beautiful and far less travelled. Park-and-ride is the only sensible way to see Boston; Cape Cod requires reservations 11 months ahead for summer weekends; and the Mass Turnpike (I-90) tolls every RV by axle count, with two-axle motorhomes paying about double a passenger car for an end-to-end run. The Berkshires, Pioneer Valley, and Mohawk Trail (MA-2) are the RV-friendly half of the state -- plan your trip there and treat the east as a logistics problem to solve, not a destination to overnight in.

Massachusetts by the numbers

Boondocking + dispersed sites	182
Established campgrounds	32
Dump stations	10
Propane refills	25
Potable water fill-ups	31
Laundromats	15
RV showers	11
Verified-bad spots (overnight prohibited)	27

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

Driving rules

Interstate (cars + RVs)	65 mph (most rural segments); 55 mph through metro Boston
Mass Turnpike (I-90)	65 mph rural; tolled by axle count
US/State highway (cars + towing)	50-55 mph default
Built-up areas	25-40 mph (posted; many towns 25-30 mph)
Drive on	Right
Seatbelts	Required for all occupants (front and rear)
Cell phone use while driving	Hands-free only; texting prohibited; all hand-held use banned

Highways

RV-friendly corridors

Highway	Note
I-90 (Mass Turnpike)	Toll, fast, smooth. Cross-state from Stockbridge to Boston. RV (2-axle motorhome) end-to-end toll roughly \$9-12; trailer adds per-axle. Use EZ-Pass.
I-91	Springfield to Vermont border via Northampton and Greenfield. Free, four-lane, easy.
I-95 (Route 128)	Boston ring road. Avoid weekday rush hour 6-9 am and 3-7 pm. Smooth four-lane otherwise.
I-495	Outer Boston ring. Better than 128 for transit through the metro east-to-west.
MA-2 (Mohawk Trail)	Greenfield to Williamstown. Two-lane scenic byway through the Berkshires. Manageable for most RVs but slow; tight hairpin at Whitcomb Summit.
US-7	Pittsfield to Williamstown through the northern Berkshires. Four-lane in places, two-lane scenic in others. Easy.

RV-restricted segments

Segment	Restriction
Storrow Drive (Boston, along the Charles)	Low overpasses (10'6"-11'0"). "Storowing" a moving truck is an annual Boston event; do not be the RV in the next news clip. Use I-93 or Storrow alternatives.
Most parkways in metro Boston	Memorial Drive, Soldiers Field Road, Fresh Pond Parkway are all low-clearance and commercial-vehicle/RV restricted. Stay on I-93, I-95, or I-90.
Cape Cod side roads (Route 6A, Route 28)	Legal but tight in summer. Big rigs over 35 ft should use US-6 (mid-Cape highway) and avoid the village strips.
MA-2A through Concord/Lincoln/Lexington	Historic-village congestion plus low railway bridges. Use MA-2 mainline.
Hairpin turn on MA-2 at Whitcomb Summit (above North Adams)	180-degree switchback; rigs over 35 ft technically allowed but practically miserable. Approach east-bound with patience and brakes.
Boston Harbor Tunnel (I-90 east end) clearance	13'0" -- fine for most RVs but verify your loaded height including AC and antennas.

Mountain passes

Pass	Elevation	Note
Hairpin Turn / Whitcomb Summit (MA-2)	2173 ft	Two-lane mountain road with a 180-degree hairpin. Manageable for most RVs but slow; avoid in snow or fog.

Florida Mountain (MA-2 east of North Adams)	2150 ft	Two-lane with 7-8% grades. Use low gear descending.
Mount Greylock summit road	3491 ft	Restricted to vehicles under 40 ft; RVs over 30 ft discouraged. Tight, steep, no shoulders. Park at the lower lots.
Berkshire ridges (US-7 between Lenox and New Ashford)	1500 ft	Rolling four-lane, no real grade issues.

National parks + monuments

National Park / Monument	Entry fee	Reservation note
Cape Cod National Seashore	Free park access; daily-use beach parking \$25/vehicle late Jun-early Sep	No NPS camping inside the Seashore; nearest NPS-managed is none. Use private campgrounds (Nickerson SP, Maurice's, Atlantic Oaks) or Nickerson State Park; book 6-11 months ahead for summer.
Boston NHP (Freedom Trail + USS Constitution)	Free entry to most sites; harbor cruise \$35	No on-site camping. Park RV in Quincy or Saugus and take MBTA into town.
Minute Man NHP (Concord/Lincoln/Lexington)	Free entry	Day-use only; no camping. Battle Road trail and visitor centers; small parking lots.
Lowell NHP	Free entry	Day-use; small lots in Lowell city center. Use nearby state parks for overnight.
New Bedford Whaling NHP	Free entry	Day-use; downtown New Bedford. Park outside and walk.
Springfield Armory NHS	Free entry	Day-use, museum + grounds. Use Pioneer Valley state-park camping nearby.
Salem Maritime NHS	Free entry	Day-use only. Parking is brutal in Salem; consider weekday visits.
Cape Cod NS (Saltpond + Province Lands visitor centers)	Same as Seashore entry	Province Lands has a small RV-accessible loop; ranger campfire programs free. Beach 4x4 permits sold separately.

State parks

Massachusetts DCR operates 150+ parks, forests, reservations; about 30 have RV camping. Nickerson SP (Cape Cod), Wells SF (Sturbridge), October Mountain SF (Berkshires), Mt Greylock SR (western MA), and Salisbury Beach SR (north coast) are the popular RV units. Reservable up to 11 months in advance via reserveamerica.com (MA portal). Day-use \$5-30/vehicle depending on park, camping \$22-40/night. Most DCR parks have electric-only hookups, with centralised water fill and dump.

Boondocking + dispersed camping

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

National Forest: No National Forest in Massachusetts. Closest equivalents are the state Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) lands in the Berkshires (October Mountain SF, Beartown SF, Mt Greylock SR) which permit limited primitive backcountry camping at designated sites with a permit -- not the same as 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

Massachusetts has two federally-recognized tribal nations: the Mashpee Wampanoag (Cape Cod) and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah, on Martha's Vineyard). Aquinnah is open to day visitors via Vineyard ferry; the cliffs and the lighthouse are worth a visit. No tribal RV campgrounds.

Propane, dump stations, fuel

Propane: Plentiful in the Boston metro, Worcester, Springfield, and along I-90/I-91. Reasonable on the Cape (Hyannis, Orleans, Wellfleet). Sparse in the western Berkshires -- top up in Pittsfield before heading into the hill towns. Most KOA and Good Sam parks fill on-site. U-Haul locations across the state are reliable for refills.

Dump stations: Reasonable coverage near major highways and in tourist regions (Cape Cod, Berkshires). DCR state-park campgrounds offer free dump stations for registered guests. Truck stops at I-90 service plazas (Westboro, Charlton, Lee, Blandford) have fee dump stations (\$10-15). Sparse on the Cape outside private parks.

Fuel: Diesel and gas widely available statewide. The Mass Turnpike service plazas have full-service truck-friendly diesel pumps every 30-40 miles. Cape Cod has reasonable fuel coverage but premium pricing; fill up off-Cape before crossing the Sagamore or Bourne bridges. Fuel prices typically lowest along I-91 north of Springfield and highest on the Cape and in metro Boston.

Weather windows

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

Avoid: Mid-November through April. Most Cape Cod campgrounds close mid-Oct to mid-May. Snow common inland. Hurricane risk Aug-Oct on the coast (Cape Cod evacuates ahead of major systems). Summer humidity (Jul-Aug) on the coast can be oppressive without AC.

Climate caution

Reservations for DCR coastal campgrounds (Nickerson, Scusset Beach, Salisbury Beach) open at 8 am sharp 11 months ahead. Summer weekends sell out the same morning. Set a reminder.

Emergency + road conditions

State patrol	Dial *MSP (*677) from a cell phone for non-emergency state police; 911 for emergencies
Road conditions	https://mass511.com

How RV TripGen helps

Mass Pike axle tolls priced into your fuel-and-toll budget

RV Tripgen calculates Mass Turnpike tolls by your axle count and trailer status for every leg, so the line-item shows up in your trip cost instead of as a surprise on your EZ-Pass statement.

Cape Cod reservation deadlines flagged 11 months ahead

RV Tripgen alerts you to the DCR 11-month-ahead Cape Cod state-park booking window at 8 am sharp on the open date, so you don't lose summer weekends to the rest of the Northeast.