



**RV TRIPGEN**

The Complete Guide to  
RV Travel in

# Montana

Speed limits, towing rules, NPS reservations, Going-to-the-Sun length limits,  
and everything else you need to know before you cross the state line.

2026 Edition | Last verified: 25 April 2026

[rvtripgen.com](https://rvtripgen.com)

# RV travel in Montana

Montana is the canonical big-sky RV state: empty interstates, two major national parks (Glacier and the Montana side of Yellowstone), and more dispersed camping on National Forest and BLM than you could chip away at in a season. The catches are distance and weather. East of the Continental Divide is wide-open prairie with wind that doesn't quit; west of the Divide is mountain country with narrow forest roads and a hard summer window that runs roughly mid-June through mid-September. Outside that window the high passes -- and Going-to-the-Sun Road through Glacier -- are closed. Plan the route around the snow gates and Montana is one of the cheapest, quietest, biggest-feeling RV states in the country.

## Montana by the numbers

<b>Boondocking + dispersed sites</b>	877
<b>Established campgrounds</b>	542
<b>Dump stations</b>	71
<b>Propane refills</b>	57
<b>Potable water fill-ups</b>	120
<b>Laundromats</b>	69
<b>RV showers</b>	56
<b>Verified-bad spots (overnight prohibited)</b>	68

Source: iOverlander community database (74% of Montana spots verified in the last 24 months).

## Driving rules

<b>Interstate (cars)</b>	80 mph
<b>Interstate (trucks + towing)</b>	70 mph
<b>US/State highway (cars)</b>	70 mph day / 65 mph night
<b>US/State highway (towing)</b>	65 mph
<b>Built-up areas</b>	25-35 mph (posted)
<b>Drive on</b>	Right
<b>RV passenger seatbelts</b>	Required for all front-seat occupants; under-18s in all seats
<b>Cell phone use while driving</b>	No statewide ban (hand-held legal), but several cities ban it -- Billings, Bozeman, Missoula, Helena, Whitefish. Stay hands-free.

## Highways

### RV-friendly corridors

Highway	Note
I-90	Main east-west corridor across the southern half: Missoula, Butte, Bozeman, Billings. Two passes (Lookout west; Homestake near Butte) but interstate-standard.
I-15	North-south spine from Idaho through Helena and Great Falls to the Canadian border. Wind exposure on the prairie sections.
I-94	Billings east to North Dakota. Empty, fast, no scenery.
US-93	Missoula north to Whitefish and the Canadian border. Heavy summer traffic; passing lanes infrequent.
US-2 (Hi-Line)	Glacier east-entry to North Dakota along the Canadian border. Long fuel gaps (Browning to Cut Bank is the last reliable diesel before 100+ miles east).
US-89	Yellowstone north entrance via Livingston, plus Glacier east-side. Paradise Valley is well-paved; Kings Hill Pass on the central stretch is steep but doable.

### RV-restricted segments

Segment	Restriction
Going-to-the-Sun Road (Glacier NP)	STRICT vehicle limits: 21 ft length AND 8 ft width AND 10 ft height max. Larger rigs must use US-2 around the south end of the park. The 21-ft length limit includes any tow vehicle + trailer combined.
Beartooth Highway (US-212)	Open late May to mid-October only. 10,947 ft summit, switchbacks, no guardrails in places. Driveable in any RV that fits the 13'6" tunnels but not pleasant in a fifth wheel.
MT-200 over Rogers Pass	Open year-round but unplowed shoulders; recorded -70 F in 1954. Avoid in winter.
Many Glacier Road inside Glacier NP	Steep narrow climb to the campground; RVs over 35 ft prohibited.

## Mountain passes

Pass	Elevation	Note
Logan Pass (Going-to-the-Sun)	6646 ft	Open late Jun to mid-Oct only. 21 ft total vehicle limit.
Beartooth Pass (US-212)	10947 ft	Open late May to mid-Oct. No size limit but steep switchbacks; not pleasant for big rigs.

Marias Pass (US-2)	5216 ft	Lowest crossing of the Continental Divide; open year-round.
Homestake Pass (I-90)	6356 ft	Interstate-standard; chains may be required Oct-Apr.
Lookout Pass (I-90)	4710 ft	Montana-Idaho border; M+S or chains Oct-Apr.
MacDonald Pass (US-12)	6312 ft	Open year-round; steep both sides.
Lost Trail Pass (US-93)	6995 ft	Montana-Idaho; chains Oct-Apr.
Kings Hill Pass (US-89)	7393 ft	Open year-round; central Montana Little Belts.

## National parks + monuments

National Park / Monument	Entry fee	Reservation note
Glacier NP	\$35/vehicle (7 days), \$80 America the Beautiful annual	Vehicle reservation system required Jun-Sep for Going-to-the-Sun, Many Glacier, Two Medicine, and North Fork entrances. Book at recreation.gov 4 months ahead (plus 24-hour-ahead release). Fish Creek, St Mary, Apgar, Two Medicine campgrounds reservable; Many Glacier first-come and impossible in summer.
Yellowstone NP (North + Northeast entrances)	\$35/vehicle (7 days)	All Yellowstone campgrounds reservable via recreation.gov; book 6+ months out. North entrance (Gardiner, MT) open year-round; Northeast (Cooke City via Beartooth) closed Oct-May.
Little Bighorn Battlefield NM	\$25/vehicle (7 days)	No camping on-site. 7th Ranch RV Park adjacent.
Big Hole NB	Free entry	No camping on-site; nearest options at Jackson Hot Springs or USFS dispersed.
Bighorn Canyon NRA	Free entry; camping \$15-30	Horseshoe Bend and Afterbay Campgrounds first-come; Barry's Landing reservable.
Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS	Free entry	Day-use only; no camping.
Nez Perce NHP (Big Hole, Bear Paw sites in MT)	Free entry	Day-use only.

## State parks

Montana operates 55+ state parks; many have basic RV sites without hookups, a smaller number offer full-hookups (Lake Elmo near Billings, Bannack near Dillon, Makoshika in the badlands, Cooney near Red Lodge). Reservable up to 9 months ahead via [stateparks.mt.gov](http://stateparks.mt.gov). Non-resident camping \$24-40/night; non-resident day-use \$8/vehicle (Montana residents pay through their vehicle registration).

## Boondocking + dispersed camping

**BLM:** Montana BLM is mostly the eastern half of the state -- prairie, badlands, and the Missouri Breaks. Free 14-day dispersed camping is the default. The Upper Missouri River Breaks NM (north-central MT) has river-access dispersed sites; high-clearance recommended on most spur roads. Western Montana has less BLM and more Forest Service.

**National Forest:** Montana has chunks of 8 National Forests (Flathead, Kootenai, Lolo, Bitterroot, Helena-Lewis & Clark, Beaverhead-Deerlodge, Gallatin, Custer). All allow free dispersed camping along forest roads, generally 14-day limits. Popular FR areas around Bozeman, Big Sky, West Yellowstone, and the Flathead fill up fast on summer weekends. Fire restrictions normal Jul-Sep.

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

## Tribal lands

Montana has 7 federally-recognized tribes on 7 reservations: Blackfeet (Browning, east of Glacier), Flathead (Salish-Kootenai, west of Glacier), Crow, Northern Cheyenne, Fort Belknap, Fort Peck, Rocky Boy's. Tribal lands are sovereign; dispersed camping is generally not permitted, and tribal fishing/hunting permits are separate from state. The Blackfeet reservation borders Glacier's east entrance -- St Mary and East Glacier are inside the reservation; respect signage. Flathead Lake's east shore is tribal; west shore is state/private.

## Propane, dump stations, fuel

**Propane:** Reliable in Billings, Bozeman, Missoula, Kalispell, Great Falls, Helena, and along I-90/I-15. Sparse along US-2 east of Cut Bank, throughout the Missouri Breaks, and in the southwestern mining-town corridor (Philipsburg, Anaconda). U-Haul reliable for refills; Town Pump (Montana chain) sells exchange tanks at most locations but few do refills.

**Dump stations:** Most Montana state parks have free dump stations for paid guests. Flying J / Pilot stops along I-90 and I-15 charge \$10-15. KOA and Yellowstone-gateway campgrounds in West Yellowstone, Gardiner, and Cooke City all have dumps. Glacier-gateway towns (West Glacier, St Mary, East Glacier) all have at least one commercial dump.

**Fuel:** Diesel widely available along interstates. Long gaps to watch: US-2 from Browning east (200+ miles to Havre with limited stops), US-191 between West Yellowstone and Big Sky (50 miles), MT-200 across the central prairie (60+ miles between stops), and any back-road approach to the Missouri Breaks. Montana fuel taxes among the lowest in the West -- fill up before crossing into Idaho or Washington.

## Weather windows

**Best months:** Mid-June through mid-September for the mountains; May-October for the prairie. Daytime highs 75-90 F in summer; nights drop into the 40s above 5,000 ft.

**Avoid:** October through May for anything over 5,000 ft. Going-to-the-Sun Road typically open late June to mid-October only. Beartooth (US-212) open late May to mid-October. Prairie temperatures can hit -30 F in winter; not RV weather. Spring shoulder (Apr-May) flat-tire muddy on dirt roads.

### Climate caution

Going-to-the-Sun Road has firm size limits: 21 ft length, 8 ft width, 10 ft height. Rangers DO measure at the entrance and turn rigs around. If your motorhome + toad combined is over 21 ft, take US-2 around the south end and drive a rental car or motorbike over the pass.

## Emergency + road conditions

<b>State patrol</b>	Dial 911 for emergencies; (406) 444-3780 for Montana Highway Patrol non-emergency
<b>Road conditions</b>	<a href="https://511.mt.gov">https://511.mt.gov</a>

## How RV TripGen helps

### Going-to-the-Sun length-check at the planning stage

RV Tripgen flags any Montana itinerary that lists Going-to-the-Sun with a rig over 21 ft total length, and routes you around via US-2 with a Logan Pass drive-it-tomorrow note in the agenda.

### Hi-Line fuel-stop spacing

RV Tripgen calculates fuel-stop spacing for US-2, MT-200, and the Missouri Breaks approaches so you don't end up at Browning with a quarter tank and a 200-mile gap ahead.