

**RV TRIPGEN**

The Complete Guide to  
RV Travel in

# Nebraska

Speed limits, towing rules, Sandhills routing, fuel-spacing,  
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 Nebraska

Nebraska is the state that most travelers blow through on I-80 in a day and never see. Pull off and the Sandhills (the largest sand-dune system in the western hemisphere, stabilized by grass) is a 19,000-square-mile region of empty two-lane highway, prairie lakes, and ranching towns where you can drive 50 miles without seeing another vehicle. Carhenge near Alliance is the kitsch landmark; Toadstool Geologic Park and the Pine Ridge in the northwest panhandle are quietly spectacular; Homestead National Historical Park near Beatrice marks the original 1862 Homestead Act claim. The catch is service spacing: US-20 and US-83 through the Sandhills can have 60-80 miles between fuel stops, and several Sandhills counties have no propane refill at all. Plan a full tank before leaving Valentine, Ainsworth, or Alliance and Nebraska becomes one of the best slow-travel states in the Midwest.

## Nebraska by the numbers

<b>Boondocking + dispersed sites</b>	174
<b>Established campgrounds</b>	188
<b>Dump stations</b>	23
<b>Propane refills</b>	5
<b>Potable water fill-ups</b>	30
<b>Laundromats</b>	9
<b>RV showers</b>	14
<b>Verified-bad spots (overnight prohibited)</b>	7

Source: iOverlander community database (72% of Nebraska spots verified in the last 24 months).

## Driving rules

<b>Interstate (cars)</b>	75 mph
<b>Interstate (trucks + towing)</b>	75 mph
<b>US/State highway (cars)</b>	60-65 mph (posted)
<b>US/State highway (towing)</b>	60-65 mph (posted)
<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 (primary enforcement)
<b>Cell phone use while driving</b>	Texting banned; hand-held legal for voice calls

## Highways

### RV-friendly corridors

Highway	Note
I-80	East-west spine: Omaha to Wyoming via Lincoln, Kearney, North Platte. Coast-to-coast freight corridor. Big-rig easy, heavy truck traffic.
I-29	Short stretch in the SE corner around Omaha to the Missouri/Iowa border.
US-20	East-west across the northern tier via Valentine and Chadron. Two-lane, empty, scenic through the Sandhills.
US-83	North-south through the heart of the Sandhills via Valentine. Long fuel gaps -- McCook to Valentine is 175 miles.
US-30 (Lincoln Highway)	East-west parallel to I-80 through small towns. Slower alternative, RV-friendly, scenic in the Platte Valley.
NE-2 (Sandhills Journey Byway)	Grand Island to Alliance through the Sandhills. The classic Nebraska scenic drive. Two-lane, low traffic, RV-friendly all the way.

### RV-restricted segments

Segment	Restriction
NE-71 north of Scottsbluff	Steep grades to Wildcat Hills. Doable but slow.
Sandhills ranch roads (county routes)	Almost all unpaved sand. Stay on numbered state highways with any RV.
Toadstool Geologic Park access (Toadstool Road)	Gravel/dirt for the final 12 miles. Class C and small trailers OK in dry weather only; impassable when wet.

## National parks + monuments

National Park / Monument	Entry fee	Reservation note
Homestead National Historical Park	Free entry	No camping inside the park. Day-trip from Beatrice or Lincoln. Rock Creek Station SHP campground 15 miles away takes RVs to 40 ft.
Scotts Bluff National Monument	\$5/vehicle (7 days)	No camping inside the monument. Riverside Park (Scottsbluff city) and Lake Minatare SRA have RV camping nearby.
Agate Fossil Beds National Monument	Free entry	No camping inside the monument. Nearest RV camping at Box Butte SRA or in Harrison. Very remote -- nearest fuel 25 miles.

Niobrara National Scenic River	Free entry; tube/canoe outfitter fees vary	No NPS camping; outfitters in Valentine run shuttles. Smith Falls State Park and Berry Bridge campground take RVs.
Missouri NRR (Missouri National Recreational River)	Free entry	Day-use focused. Niobrara State Park has RV camping with full hookups overlooking the confluence.

## State parks

Nebraska Game and Parks operates 76 state parks and recreation areas. Standouts: Fort Robinson (Pine Ridge), Niobrara, Ponca, Mahoney, Eugene T. Mahoney, and Lake McConaughy. Reservable via [outdoornebraska.gov](http://outdoornebraska.gov) up to 6 months in advance. Park entry permit required: \$6 daily or \$35 annual. Camping \$15-40/night depending on hookups.

## Boondocking + dispersed camping

**BLM:** Nebraska has minimal BLM holdings -- a few small parcels in the northwest panhandle near Crawford and Harrison. The 14-day dispersed camping rule applies but practical opportunities are limited. The real free-camping option is Oglala National Grassland (USFS) in the northwest, which surrounds Toadstool Park and Hudson-Meng Bison Kill. Dispersed camping permitted with 14-day stay limit.

**National Forest:** Nebraska National Forest (the only entirely hand-planted national forest in the US -- planted from 1902 onwards on what was treeless prairie) has two units: Bessey Ranger District near Halsey and Pine Ridge Ranger District near Chadron. Free 14-day dispersed camping permitted on most numbered forest roads. Established campgrounds at Halsey and Soldier Creek reservable via [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov). Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest similar rules.

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

## Tribal lands

Nebraska contains five tribal nations: Omaha, Winnebago, Santee Sioux, Ponca, and Iowa (shared with Kansas). Most reservation land is in the NE corner along the Missouri River. Tribal lands are sovereign; state laws do not apply on reservation. Several reservations have casino RV parking but limited tourism infrastructure. Respect signed restrictions, especially around ceremonial sites.

## Propane, dump stations, fuel

**Propane:** Available in Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, North Platte, Scottsbluff, Norfolk, and most county-seat towns. Genuinely sparse in the Sandhills -- Valentine, Ainsworth, Burwell, and Mullen are your only reliable Sandhills options, and Mullen closes weekends. U-Haul locations limited to larger towns. Fill before leaving I-80 if you're heading into the Sandhills.

**Dump stations:** Adequate density along I-80. Most NE state parks have free dump stations for registered guests. Flying J / Pilot stops at Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, North Platte, and Sidney have fee dump stations. Sparse off-interstate -- Sandhills travelers should dump before crossing NE-2 or US-20.

**Fuel:** Diesel and gas plentiful along I-80. Long stretches without fuel on US-83 (McCook to North Platte 75 miles; North Platte to Valentine 100 miles), on NE-2 (Broken Bow to Hyannis 95 miles), and on US-20 west of Valentine. Carry full tanks and 5 gallons reserve for any Sandhills loop. Fuel typically cheapest

along I-80 at North Platte and Kearney, highest in Valentine and Chadron.

## Weather windows

**Best months:** Late May through September. Daytime 75-90 F, nights 50-65 F. Low humidity in the Sandhills, more humid in the east.

**Avoid:** Late April through early June is peak tornado season -- the eastern third of Nebraska is core Tornado Alley. December through February brings ground blizzards across the plains; I-80 closes 3-5 times per winter. July-August can hit 105 F with humidity in the east.

### Climate caution

Tornado watches are routine April-June across eastern Nebraska. Most RV parks have storm shelters or basement-built common buildings -- ask on check-in. NOAA weather radio is mandatory equipment, not optional, in tornado season here.

## Emergency + road conditions

### State patrol

Dial \*55 from a cell phone or 911 for emergencies

### Road conditions

<https://511.nebraska.gov>

## How RV TripGen helps

### Sandhills fuel-spacing planning

RV Tripgen flags any Sandhills route leg where the next reliable fuel stop is over 75 miles, so you can top off at the right town before committing to NE-2 or US-83.

### Tornado-watch overlays April-June

RV Tripgen overlays active NWS tornado watches on your route and reroutes you north or south of the watch band when possible during peak spring storm season.