

**RV TRIPGEN**

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

Speed limits, towing rules, NPS reservations, Loneliest-Road fuel spacing,  
and everything else you need to know before you cross the state line.

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

# RV travel in Nevada

Nevada is RV country for people who like empty. Outside the Las Vegas and Reno-Tahoe metros, the state is one giant high-desert basin-and-range corridor with the lowest population density of any state outside Alaska and Wyoming. US-50 ("the Loneliest Road in America") is the canonical Nevada drive: 400+ miles of sagebrush, mountain passes, ghost towns, and 80-mile fuel gaps. Free BLM dispersed camping is essentially limitless. The catches: water is scarce, summer temperatures in the south are brutal, and most state highways climb several 7,000+ ft passes you forget are coming. Plan around it and Nevada is the cheapest state in the country to spend a month in.

## Nevada by the numbers

<b>Boondocking + dispersed sites</b>	863
<b>Established campgrounds</b>	187
<b>Dump stations</b>	61
<b>Propane refills</b>	67
<b>Potable water fill-ups</b>	118
<b>Laundromats</b>	52
<b>RV showers</b>	41
<b>Verified-bad spots (overnight prohibited)</b>	62

Source: iOverlander community database (73% of Nevada spots verified in the last 24 months).

## Driving rules

<b>Interstate (cars)</b>	80 mph (rural I-80 stretches; 75 mph elsewhere)
<b>Interstate (trucks + towing)</b>	70 mph
<b>US/State highway (cars)</b>	70 mph
<b>US/State highway (towing)</b>	65 mph
<b>Built-up areas</b>	25-45 mph (posted)
<b>Drive on</b>	Right
<b>RV passenger seatbelts</b>	Required for all occupants in all seats
<b>Cell phone use while driving</b>	Hands-free only (hand-held banned since 2012)

## Highways

### RV-friendly corridors

Highway	Note
I-15	Las Vegas south to Arizona / north to Utah. Big-rig standard but heavy summer weekend traffic between LA and Vegas.
I-80	Reno east through Winnemucca and Elko to Utah. Empty, fast, wind-exposed on the long flat stretches.
I-580 / US-395	Reno to the California line and on to Lake Tahoe. Carson City corridor is interstate-quality.
US-93	Vegas north to Ely and up to Idaho. Long fuel gaps; gorgeous Great Basin scenery.
US-95	Vegas northwest through Tonopah to Reno via the western desert. 200-mile fuel gaps in places.
US-50 (Loneliest Road)	Ely to Fallon across central Nevada. Doable in any rig; carry water and an extra 5 gallons of fuel. Crosses six 7,000+ ft passes.

### RV-restricted segments

Segment	Restriction
NV-431 / Mt. Rose Highway (Reno to Incline Village)	8% grades, sharp curves; legal for any rig but unpleasant in big trailers. Use I-580 + US-50 round Carson City instead.
NV-28 east shore Lake Tahoe	Narrow, tight curves; restricted to vehicles under 40 ft in places.
Old Las Vegas Mormon Mesa / Valley of Fire west entrance	Steep washboarded approaches; high-clearance recommended.
NV-225 (Mountain City Highway, northern Owyhees)	Remote two-lane to Idaho border; doable but no services for 100+ miles.

## Mountain passes

Pass	Elevation	Note
Wheeler Peak Campground access (Great Basin)	9886 ft	RVs to 24 ft only; not a through-route.
Connors Pass (US-93)	7723 ft	Open year-round; chains in heavy snow.
Sacramento Pass (US-50)	7154 ft	Open year-round.
Robinson Summit (US-50)	7588 ft	Open year-round.
Little Antelope Summit (US-50)	7438 ft	Open year-round.

Pancake Summit (US-50)	6517 ft	Open year-round.
Hickison Summit (US-50)	6594 ft	Open year-round.
Austin Summit (US-50)	7484 ft	Open year-round; switchbacks west of town.
Mt. Rose Summit (NV-431)	8911 ft	Open year-round but chains required in storms. Not recommended for big rigs.

## National parks + monuments

National Park / Monument	Entry fee	Reservation note
Great Basin NP	Free entry	Lower Lehman Creek Campground reservable via recreation.gov May-Oct; Upper Lehman, Wheeler Peak, Baker Creek first-come. Wheeler Peak Campground (9,886 ft) is RV-accessible up to 24 ft only -- steep narrow road.
Lake Mead NRA	\$25/vehicle (7 days), \$80 America the Beautiful annual	Boulder Beach, Callville Bay, Echo Bay, Temple Bar campgrounds first-come or reservable; many have RV hookups. Lake levels have dropped dramatically -- check current ramp/marina status before counting on water access.
Death Valley NP (Nevada side entrances)	\$30/vehicle (7 days)	Most campgrounds in California portion. Stovepipe Wells and Furnace Creek reservable. NV-side approaches via NV-374 (Beatty) or NV-267 (Scotty's Castle).
Tule Springs Fossil Beds NM	Free entry	Day-use only, no camping. Northern Las Vegas Valley.

## State parks

Nevada has 27 state parks. Valley of Fire, Cathedral Gorge, Berlin-Ichthyosaur, Ward Charcoal Ovens, Cave Lake, and Spring Valley all have basic RV sites; few have full hookups. Reservable via reservenevada.com. Non-resident camping \$25-35/night; non-resident day-use \$10/vehicle. Valley of Fire (red sandstone outside Vegas) is the must-visit and books out weekends Oct-Apr.

## Boondocking + dispersed camping

**BLM:** Nevada is roughly 80% federal land, most of it BLM. Free 14-day dispersed camping is the default essentially everywhere outside developed recreation areas. Popular boondocking corridors: Valley of Fire access roads, Pahrump-area BLM, the Black Rock Desert north of Gerlach (playa camping for Burning Man and year-round), the Ruby Mountains foothills, and the entire US-50 corridor. Carry your own water -- there's almost none.

**National Forest:** Humboldt-Toiyabe NF is the largest National Forest outside Alaska and covers most of Nevada's mountain ranges. Free dispersed camping along forest roads; 14-day limit. The Spring Mountains (Mt. Charleston, west of Vegas), Ruby Mountains (south of Elko), and Toiyabe Range (south of Austin) all have developed and dispersed options. Fire restrictions Jun-Oct.

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

## Tribal lands

Nevada has 27 federally-recognized tribes including Paiute, Shoshone, Washoe, and Goshute bands. Tribal lands are sovereign; dispersed camping not permitted without permission. Several tribes operate smoke shops and gas stations along highways (tax-free fuel and tobacco -- check current rules). The Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation north of Reno operates well-run campgrounds and requires a tribal use permit for the lake.

## Propane, dump stations, fuel

**Propane:** Reliable in Las Vegas, Reno, Carson City, Elko, Winnemucca, and along I-15 and I-80. Sparse on US-50 (Ely, Eureka, Austin, Fallon are the only reliable stops in 400+ miles), US-93 north of Ely (next reliable is Wells/Wendover), and US-95 between Tonopah and Hawthorne. U-Haul locations in Vegas, Reno, and Elko reliable; some Tonopah and Ely propane sellers operate restricted hours.

**Dump stations:** Dense in Vegas and Reno (most casinos with RV parks have dumps; Sam's Town and Circus Circus historically among the easiest). Lake Mead and state parks have free dumps for paid guests. Loneliest-Road stops (Eureka, Austin) have at least one each. Flying J / Pilot stops along I-15 and I-80 charge \$10-15.

**Fuel:** Diesel widely available along I-15, I-80, and the Vegas/Reno metros. CRITICAL gap warnings: US-50 Austin to Eureka (70 miles, fuel in both small towns but station hours unreliable -- top up at every chance); US-95 Tonopah to Hawthorne (100+ miles, single-station town of Mina midway sometimes closed); US-93 Ely to Jackpot (200+ miles, no diesel between Wells and Jackpot at certain times); NV-225 to Owyhee (100 miles from Mountain City, no services). Carry an extra 5-10 gallons for any non-interstate route. Vegas fuel taxes lower than California; fill before crossing west.

## Weather windows

**Best months:** October through April for the south (Vegas, Lake Mead, Death Valley side); May through October for the north (Reno, Elko, Great Basin). Daytime highs 70-90 F in shoulder seasons; nights cool fast in the high desert.

**Avoid:** June through August in the south: Las Vegas regularly hits 110-115 F, Death Valley over 120 F. RV interiors become unsafe within 20 minutes without serious airflow. Avoid the northern high desert November through March -- I-80 closes regularly for ground blizzards, and passes get drifted shut.

### Climate caution

Lake Mead water levels are not what they were. Old marina photos online don't reflect current ramp closures -- check [nps.gov/lake](https://www.nps.gov/lake) for current launch and slip status before planning around any specific marina. Some former campgrounds (Echo Bay) have moved or closed.

## Emergency + road conditions

<b>State patrol</b>	Dial *NHP (*647) from a cell phone for Nevada Highway Patrol non-emergency
<b>Road conditions</b>	<a href="https://nvroads.com">https://nvroads.com</a>

## How RV TripGen helps

### Loneliest-Road fuel and water spacing

RV Tripgen calculates fuel-stop spacing and water-fill spacing for US-50, US-93, and US-95 so you don't end up at Eureka on a Sunday evening with the one diesel pump closed.

### We avoid summer in southern Nevada by default

RV Tripgen flags any Vegas, Lake Mead, or Death Valley overnight stop between June and August and suggests alternates over 5,000 ft (Mt. Charleston, Great Basin) where night temperatures are survivable.