

RV TRIPGEN

The Complete Guide to
RV Travel in
New Jersey

Turnpike axle tolls, Garden State Parkway no-RV zone in the south,
Pine Barrens dispersed, and the Jersey Shore reservation race.

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RV travel in New Jersey

New Jersey is denser than its reputation and more rewarding to RV than most non-locals expect. The state's spine -- the Turnpike (I-95) -- is the toll-heavy fast lane, axle-priced for RVs, and the cheapest way to transit between NYC, Philadelphia, and the Shore. The Garden State Parkway is the alternative but prohibits trailers and RVs over a certain weight south of exit 105 (verify current signage; the rule has changed over the years), so route check carefully. The two RV jewels are Cape May (state's southern tip, ferry connection to Delaware) and the Delaware Water Gap on the western border. Pine Barrens primitive camping exists if you have a permit. Reserve Shore campgrounds 6-12 months ahead, treat the Turnpike axle tolls as a tax, and Jersey works.

New Jersey by the numbers

Boondocking + dispersed sites	136
Established campgrounds	29
Dump stations	8
Propane refills	11
Potable water fill-ups	12
Laundromats	6
RV showers	12
Verified-bad spots (overnight prohibited)	7

Source: iOverlander community database (71% of New Jersey spots verified in the last 24 months).

Driving rules

Interstate (cars + RVs)	65 mph (most rural segments); 55 mph in metro Newark area
NJ Turnpike (I-95)	65 mph rural; tolled by class -- RVs typically Class 2
Garden State Parkway	65 mph north of Toms River; varies south. RV/trailer prohibitions in southern segments (check current signage)
US/State highway (cars + towing)	50 mph default
Built-up areas	25-35 mph (posted)
Drive on	Right
Seatbelts	Required for all front-seat occupants and all under-18 in any seat
Cell phone use while driving	Hands-free only; all hand-held use prohibited

Highways

RV-friendly corridors

Highway	Note
I-95 / NJ Turnpike	George Washington Bridge to Delaware Memorial Bridge. Toll, axle-priced, full-service plazas. Fast cross-state and the only realistic NYC-to-Philly transit for RVs.
I-78	Holland Tunnel approach to PA border via Newark. Toll-free west of NJ Turnpike. Heavy commuter traffic 6-9 am and 3-7 pm.
I-80	GWB to PA border via Paterson. Free, four-lane, easy.
I-287	Western Jersey bypass of NYC metro. Free, four-lane.
US-1/9	Newark to Trenton corridor. Heavy commercial traffic; usable but slow.
US-206	Trenton to Newton cross-state. Two-lane scenic alternative to I-78.
US-9	Cape May to Atlantic City and north along the Shore. Big-rig accessible; the Shore-strip alternative to the Parkway.

RV-restricted segments

Segment	Restriction
Garden State Parkway south of exit 105 (varies)	Historically restricted to vehicles under 7,000 lbs and prohibited to trailers in some segments. Rule has changed multiple times; verify current signage at the entrance. Use US-9 as the Shore alternative.
Holland Tunnel + Lincoln Tunnel (NJ side)	Both prohibit propane onboard. Use the George Washington Bridge for any cross-Hudson transit with propane.
Palisades Interstate Parkway (NJ portion, GWB to Bear Mountain)	RVs PROHIBITED. Use US-9W instead.
Atlantic City Expressway	Toll, RV-OK, but Atlantic City itself is brutal for RV parking. Day-trip from a Galloway or Egg Harbor base.
Cape May-Lewes Ferry (NJ to DE)	Takes RVs but reservations required, axle-priced. Worth it as a Mid-Atlantic shortcut.
Pulaski Skyway	RVs and commercial PROHIBITED. Use I-78 or local routes through Newark.

National parks + monuments

National Park / Monument	Entry fee	Reservation note
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Delaware Water Gap NRA	\$10/vehicle day use	No drive-in RV camping inside the NRA on the NJ side. Worthington SF (NJ) and Dingmans Campground (private, PA side) are the practical options.
Morristown NHP	Free entry; museum \$7 adult	Day-use; small lots. Park-and-walk for tow cars; big-rig parking limited.
Edison NHS (Thomas Edison)	\$15/person; under-16 free	Day-use; downtown West Orange. Small lot.
Paterson Great Falls NHP	Free entry	Day-use; downtown Paterson. Small lot.
Sandy Hook (Gateway NRA, NJ unit)	\$20/vehicle day-use late Jun-early Sep; free off-season	No RV camping. Day-use beach parking; arrive early in summer.
New Jersey Pinelands NR (joint federal-state)	Free	Federal-state designation covering 1.1 million acres of the Pine Barrens. Camping in Wharton SF, Brendan T Byrne SF, and Bass River SF inside the Pinelands.
Statue of Liberty / Ellis Island (NJ launch)	Ferry \$24.50 adult	Best access from Liberty State Park, Jersey City. Free RV parking in the lot.
Crossroads of the American Revolution NHA (designation)	Free	Heritage area covering revolutionary sites including Princeton Battlefield, Trenton, Morristown. Day-use across multiple sites.

State parks

NJ State Parks operates 50+ parks and forests; about 15 have RV camping. Wharton SF (Pine Barrens, primitive), Bass River SF, Belleplain SF, Stokes SF, High Point SP, and Cheesequake SP are the popular RV units. Reservable up to 11 months in advance via newjerseystateparks.reserveamerica.com. Day-use \$5-20/vehicle (resident vs non-resident, weekday vs weekend), camping \$20-35/night. Most NJ state parks have no individual hookups (centralised fill and dump); a few offer 30-amp electric.

Boondocking + dispersed camping

BLM: No BLM land in New Jersey. Public-land boondocking does not exist in the federal-management sense.

National Forest: No National Forest in New Jersey. The state has Wharton State Forest and others in the Pine Barrens which permit primitive backcountry camping at designated sites with a permit, plus drive-up state-park campgrounds at the same forests. Not the same as dispersed dispersed boondocking but closer than most Northeast states get.

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

Tribal lands

New Jersey has three state-recognised tribal nations (Lenape, Ramapough Lenape, Powhatan Renape) but no federally-recognised reservations. No tribal RV facilities.

Propane, dump stations, fuel

Propane: Plentiful statewide along all interstates and in the Shore corridor. U-Haul and Tractor Supply locations are reliable for refills. Holland and Lincoln Tunnels prohibit propane onboard -- use the GWB for cross-Hudson transit.

Dump stations: Reasonable coverage along the Turnpike, Parkway, and at most NJ State Park campgrounds (free for registered guests). Truck stops at Turnpike service plazas have fee dump stations (\$10-15). The Shore region has multiple commercial dump stations to handle summer demand.

Fuel: Diesel and gas widely available statewide. New Jersey is a full-service-only state: you cannot pump your own fuel. Plan extra minutes at the pump and tip the attendant. Fuel prices typically lower than surrounding states because of lower state taxes -- worth a fill-up when transiting. Turnpike service plazas (full service) every 30-50 miles.

Weather windows

Best months: Mid-May through mid-October. Daytime highs 70-90 F. Coastal humidity Jul-Aug is high; ocean breezes moderate the Shore.

Avoid: December through March. Snow common; nor'easters can dump 1-2 ft. Hurricane risk Aug-Oct -- the Jersey Shore historically takes storm impact. Most Shore RV parks close mid-Oct to mid-May.

Climate caution

Shore RV park reservations open 12 months ahead and summer weekends sell out the same day. Cape May campgrounds and Wildwood-area parks book fastest. Set a calendar reminder.

Emergency + road conditions

State patrol	Dial #77 from a cell phone for State Police; 911 for emergencies
Road conditions	https://511nj.org

How RV TripGen helps

Garden State Parkway restrictions verified by current signage

RV TripGen flags Garden State Parkway RV/trailer restrictions south of exit 105 -- the rule has changed multiple times and depends on rig weight. We verify against current NJ DOT signage rather than out-of-date forum posts.

NJ full-service fuel surfaces in your fuel-stop planning

RV TripGen flags that NJ is a no-self-serve state, so you can plan fuel stops with attendant-time in mind rather than counting on pump-and-go efficiency.