

**RV TRIPGEN**

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

PA Turnpike axle tolls, Allegheny NF dispersed, Pine Creek Gorge,  
and the back-road grade descents that have melted RV brakes since 1955.

2026 Edition | Last verified: 25 April 2026

**[rvtripgen.com](http://rvtripgen.com)**

# RV travel in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania is huge, mostly rural away from the Pittsburgh-Philadelphia corridor, and has the Northeast's largest expanse of National-Forest-quality public land. The Allegheny National Forest in the northwest, Susquehannock and Tiadaghton State Forests through the Pine Creek Gorge ("Pennsylvania's Grand Canyon"), and the Poconos in the east provide more genuine RV-friendly public camping than every other Northeast state combined. The catches: the PA Turnpike charges RVs by axle and adds up fast, the back-road grade descents off the Allegheny Plateau melt cooler braking systems, and Philadelphia + Pittsburgh are both RV-unfriendly cities best transited around. Plan for the tolls, use low gear on the descents, and Pennsylvania pays back the planning generously.

## Pennsylvania by the numbers

<b>Boondocking + dispersed sites</b>	390
<b>Established campgrounds</b>	164
<b>Dump stations</b>	20
<b>Propane refills</b>	31
<b>Potable water fill-ups</b>	44
<b>Laundromats</b>	24
<b>RV showers</b>	19
<b>Verified-bad spots (overnight prohibited)</b>	20

Source: iOverlander community database (65% of Pennsylvania spots verified in the last 24 months).

## Driving rules

<b>Interstate (cars)</b>	70 mph (most rural segments); 65 mph metro
<b>PA Turnpike (I-76/I-276)</b>	70 mph rural; tolled by class -- RVs typically Class 2-4
<b>Interstate (trucks + towing)</b>	Matches posted
<b>US/State highway (cars + towing)</b>	55 mph default
<b>Built-up areas</b>	25-35 mph (posted)
<b>Drive on</b>	Right
<b>Seatbelts</b>	Required for all front-seat occupants and all under-18 in any seat
<b>Cell phone use while driving</b>	Hands-free only; texting prohibited

## Highways

### RV-friendly corridors

Highway	Note
I-80	Ohio border to NJ border via Clearfield, Lock Haven, and Stroudsburg. Free, four-lane, the workhorse east-west route. Heavy truck traffic but easy.
I-76 / PA Turnpike	Ohio border to NJ via Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, and Philadelphia. Toll, axle-priced (RVs Class 2-4 typically), full-service plazas every 30-50 miles.
I-79	Erie to Pittsburgh and WV border. Free, four-lane.
I-81	Maryland border to NY border via Harrisburg and Scranton. Free, four-lane.
I-83	Maryland border to Harrisburg. Free, four-lane.
US-6	Erie to NY border across the northern tier. Two-lane scenic byway through Allegheny NF and Pine Creek Gorge. Manageable for most rigs.
US-22	Pittsburgh to Harrisburg cross-state. Mostly four-lane, some two-lane stretches.
US-15	Maryland border to NY border via Williamsport. Four-lane upgraded to interstate standard most of the way.

### RV-restricted segments

Segment	Restriction
PA-487 through Worlds End SP	Two-lane with 12-15% grades and tight switchbacks. Not for any RV over 30 ft. Use US-220 alternative.
PA-44 north of Slate Run (Pine Creek Gorge rim)	Two-lane with steep descents into Pine Creek. Manageable for most rigs but use low gear; long downhill ahead of Slate Run.
Most state-forest roads in the Poconos and Allegheny	Forest roads in PA state forests are typically gravel and may be single-lane. Suitable for dispersed camping only if your rig clears low branches and your tires handle gravel.
Philadelphia tunnels and the Schuylkill Expressway (I-76 metro)	I-76 through Philly is one of the slowest urban interstates in the country. Avoid weekday rush hour entirely; expect 25 mph crawl. Use I-476 (Blue Route) as a bypass.
Pittsburgh Liberty Tunnel and Fort Pitt Tunnel	Both have height limits (12'8" and 12'10" respectively). Verify your loaded height including AC.
Steep descents off the Allegheny Plateau (US-219, US-15 south)	9-10% grades over multiple miles. Use lower gear and pulse brakes; coolant brake fade is a real risk for marginal rigs.

## Mountain passes

Pass	Elevation	Note
Allegheny Front (US-22 east of Ebsenburg)	2700 ft	Long four-lane climb and descent. Manageable for most RVs; brake-check pullouts on descent.
Laurel Highlands ridge (US-30 east of Ligonier)	2500 ft	Two-lane with moderate grades. Manageable.
Pine Creek Gorge rim (PA-44 north of Slate Run)	2200 ft	Two-lane with 9-10% descents. Use low gear; cooler-brake risk on long downhill.
Pocono Plateau (I-80 east of Hazleton)	1700 ft	Four-lane interstate with manageable grades. Snow common Nov-Mar.

## National parks + monuments

National Park / Monument	Entry fee	Reservation note
Independence NHP (Philadelphia)	Free entry to Liberty Bell + most sites; Independence Hall timed ticket free	No RV camping. Park outside the city and use SEPTA, or use a private campground in Valley Forge area and drive in tow car.
Valley Forge NHP	Free entry; \$25/vehicle for visitor center weekday lot fee in season	Day-use only, no NPS camping. Valley Forge KOA nearby.
Gettysburg NMP	Free entry; visitor-center museum \$19 adult	No NPS camping. Gettysburg Campground and Artillery Ridge nearby are RV-friendly with battlefield tour shuttles.
Allegheny Portage Railroad NHS	Free entry	Day-use; visitor center near Cresson. Small lot.
Johnstown Flood NM	Free entry	Day-use; visitor center at South Fork. Small lot.
Fort Necessity NB	\$15/vehicle (7 days)	Day-use; Pennsylvania-Maryland border. Laurel Highlands campgrounds nearby.
Eisenhower NHS	\$10/person tour; book ahead	Adjoins Gettysburg NMP. Use Gettysburg campgrounds for RV.
Flight 93 NM (Shanksville)	Free entry	Day-use; small lot near Somerset.
Hopewell Furnace NHS	Free entry	Day-use; near French Creek SP for nearby RV camping.
Delaware Water Gap NRA (PA side)	\$10/vehicle day use	Dingmans Campground (PA side, NPS-managed) takes RVs to 35 ft; reservable. Best NPS-managed RV camping in the Delaware Water Gap.
Steamtown NHS (Scranton)	\$7 adult	Day-use; small lots; downtown Scranton.

## State parks

PA State Parks operates 124 parks; about 60 have RV camping. Ricketts Glen (waterfalls), Promised Land (Poconos), French Creek (Berks County), Cook Forest, Ohiopyle (Laurel Highlands), Worlds End (Sullivan County), and Black Moshannon are the popular RV units. Reservable up to 11 months in advance via [pennsylvaniastateparks.reserveamerica.com](https://pennsylvaniastateparks.reserveamerica.com). PA state parks famously charge NO day-use fees (free entry). Camping \$22-40/night. Many PA state parks have electric (30/50 amp) hookups, with centralised fill and dump.

## Boondocking + dispersed camping

**BLM:** No BLM land in Pennsylvania.

**National Forest:** Allegheny National Forest (517,000 acres, northwest PA) permits free dispersed camping along most forest roads, 1500 ft from any developed campground or boat launch. Popular areas: along FR-127, FR-145, and around the Allegheny Reservoir (Kinzua). Pennsylvania also has 2.2 million acres of state forest (Susquehannock, Tiadaghton, Sproul, Bald Eagle, Tioga, Elk, Loyalsock among others) which permit free primitive camping with a free DCNR Camping Permit at most locations -- the largest state-forest dispersed-camping program in the East. Stay limit 14 days at one site, then move.

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

## Tribal lands

Pennsylvania has no federally-recognised tribal reservations. The state historically removed all tribal nations during the colonial and early-republic period; today the closest reservations are in NY (Seneca), OH (Eastern Shawnee), and NJ (state-recognised only). The Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania is state-recognised but does not operate sovereign land or RV facilities.

## Propane, dump stations, fuel

**Propane:** Plentiful in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Erie, Scranton, and along all interstates. Reasonable in the Poconos and Allegheny region. Sparse in the deepest Susquehannock and Sproul state-forest interior -- top up in Wellsboro, Williamsport, or Coudersport before heading in. Most KOA and Good Sam parks fill on-site. U-Haul and Tractor Supply locations widespread.

**Dump stations:** Reasonable coverage along the Turnpike, I-80, and at most PA State Park and DCNR campgrounds (free for registered guests). Truck stops at Turnpike service plazas have fee dump stations (\$10-15). PA Sheetz and Wawa locations along major routes occasionally have RV dump access -- verify before stopping.

**Fuel:** Diesel and gas widely available along all interstates and US highways. Genuinely sparse in the Allegheny NF interior, on US-6 between Wellsboro and Coudersport, and in the Susquehannock-Sproul SF complex. Carry an extra 5 gallons for the Pine Creek Gorge and Allegheny NF back-roads. Fuel prices typically lowest along the Ohio and WV borders and highest in the Pocono tourist corridor.

## Weather windows

**Best months:** Mid-May through mid-October. Daytime highs 70-90 F lowlands, 65-80 F Allegheny Plateau. Foliage peaks early to mid-October across the state.

**Avoid:** December through March. Snow common; the Allegheny Plateau averages 80-100 inches/year. Erie gets lake-effect snow that can dump 4-6 ft in single events. Most state-park campgrounds close mid-Oct to mid-May. Summer humidity Jul-Aug oppressive in lowlands.

### Climate caution

The Allegheny Plateau back roads in winter and mud season are genuinely impassable to RVs. Stick to I-80, I-86 (NY just over the border), and the Turnpike between November and April; treat US-6 as summer-only for any rig over 30 ft.

## Emergency + road conditions

### State patrol

Dial \*11 from a cell phone for State Police; 911 for emergencies

### Road conditions

<https://www.511pa.com>

## How RV TripGen helps

### PA Turnpike axle-priced tolls in your trip budget

RV Tripgen calculates PA Turnpike toll by your axle count and trailer status for every leg, so the cross-state run from Ohio to NJ shows up as a real line-item rather than a surprise on your EZ-Pass statement.

### DCNR state-forest dispersed permits flagged for your stops

RV Tripgen surfaces PA DCNR state-forest free-permit requirements for any dispersed camping stop you plan in Susquehannock, Tiadaghton, Sproul, and other state-forest units -- so you have the permit before the ranger asks.