



RV TRIPGEN

The Complete Guide to
RV Travel in
Rhode Island

Smallest state, fewest RV parks, Newport mansions on a day trip,
and Block Island that you cannot bring your RV to.

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RV travel in Rhode Island

Rhode Island is small enough to cross in under an hour and dense enough that you will not want to overnight in any of its cities. The RV play here is the southern coastline -- Burlingame State Park, Charlestown, and the Misquamicut beach strip -- treated as a day-trip base for Newport and Providence. The state has fewer than a dozen RV-accommodating campgrounds, public boondocking is effectively zero, and Block Island ferries do not take RVs (passengers and tow cars only). Plan a Burlingame base, day-trip in your tow car, and Rhode Island works as a quick add-on between Mystic and the Cape rather than a destination in itself.

Rhode Island by the numbers

Boondocking + dispersed sites	27
Established campgrounds	7
Dump stations	5
Propane refills	9
Potable water fill-ups	3
Laundromats	1
RV showers	2
Verified-bad spots (overnight prohibited)	3

Source: iOverlander community database (59% of Rhode Island spots verified in the last 24 months).

Driving rules

Interstate (cars + RVs)	65 mph (rural I-95); 55 mph through Providence
US/State highway (cars + towing)	50 mph default
Built-up areas	25-35 mph (posted)
Drive on	Right
Seatbelts	Required for all occupants over 8; 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	Connecticut border to Mass border via Providence. Smooth four-lane; congestion around Providence at rush hour but manageable.
I-195	Providence to Mass border (Fall River direction). Smooth four-lane.
I-295	Providence west bypass. Quieter than I-95 through the city center.
US-1 (Westerly-South County)	Coastal two-lane from CT border through Westerly, Charlestown, Narragansett. Manageable for most RVs.
RI-138	South County to Newport via the Pell Bridge and Jamestown. Big-rig accessible but the bridge tolls (Pell) cost RVs by axle.

RV-restricted segments

Segment	Restriction
Newport historic downtown (Thames Street, Bellevue Avenue)	Tight, congested, parking impossible for RVs. Park at Newport Visitor Center lot or use a South County base and day-trip.
Block Island ferry (Galilee terminal)	Passenger-and-vehicle ferry takes cars but is not RV-friendly. Foot passengers or tow-car only; leave the rig at the Galilee lot or a nearby campground.
Most coastal village streets in Watch Hill, Wickford, Bristol	Historic and tight; legal but miserable. Use the mainline routes.
Beavertail Road (Jamestown)	Two-lane around Beavertail SP; legal but narrow at the southern tip. Big rigs better off staying at the visitor center lot.

National parks + monuments

National Park / Monument	Entry fee	Reservation note
Roger Williams NMEM	Free entry	Providence. Day-use only, no camping. Small downtown park; use a public lot.
Blackstone River Valley NHP	Free entry	Spans RI and MA. Day-use; trail-and-mill sites. No camping inside the corridor.

State parks

RI DEM operates 16 state parks and management areas; 4 have RV camping. Burlingame SP (Charlestown) is the big one -- 700+ sites, the only family-sized RV park in the state. Charlestown Breachway, Fishermen's Memorial (Narragansett), and Burlingame Picnic Area round out the list. Reservable up to 11 months in advance via reserveri.com. Day-use \$5-14/vehicle (resident vs non-resident), camping \$20-35/night with electric/water at most Burlingame sites.

Boondocking + dispersed camping

BLM: No BLM land in Rhode Island. Public-land boondocking does not exist in the state.

National Forest: No National Forest in Rhode Island. The state Department of Environmental Management (DEM) operates state parks and management areas, but none permit drive-up dispersed RV camping. Plan on private RV parks or DEM state-park campgrounds.

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

Tribal lands

Rhode Island has one federally-recognized tribal nation: the Narragansett Indian Tribe (south of Charlestown). The tribe operates a small museum and cultural center but no RV facilities. No casino operations in RI (the state does not permit tribal gaming).

Propane, dump stations, fuel

Propane: Reasonable coverage in Providence, Warwick, and along I-95. Tank exchanges at most coastal grocery stores. U-Haul locations in Cranston, Providence, and Warwick are reliable for refills. Most KOA and Good Sam parks fill on-site.

Dump stations: Sparse outside DEM state-park campgrounds (Burlingame, Charlestown Breachway, Fishermen's Memorial). Truck stops at I-95 (Hopkinton, West Greenwich) have fee dump stations (\$10-15). Plan dump runs at your private or state-park campground.

Fuel: Diesel and gas widely available statewide; the state is too small to have meaningful fuel gaps. Fuel prices typically lowest near the CT border in Westerly and highest in Newport and Providence.

Weather windows

Best months: Late May through mid-October. Daytime highs 70-85 F. Coastal humidity Jul-Aug can be high; ocean breezes generally moderate it.

Avoid: Mid-November through April. Most coastal campgrounds close. Snow less common than further north but nor'easters can dump 1-2 ft in single storms. Hurricane risk Aug-Oct -- Rhode Island has historically taken direct hits.

Climate caution

Burlingame State Park is Rhode Island's only large family-sized RV campground and sells out every summer weekend 6+ months ahead. Reserve the day the window opens or accept smaller private parks.

Emergency + road conditions

State patrol

Dial 911 for emergencies; (401) 444-1000 for non-emergency state police

Road conditions

<https://www.tmc.dot.ri.gov>

How RV TripGen helps

Burlingame State Park booking window flagged

RV TripGen alerts you to the Burlingame reservation window opening 11 months ahead -- summer weekends sell out the same morning, and there are no comparable RV parks in the state.

Pell Bridge tolls priced into your route

RV TripGen calculates Pell Bridge axle-based tolls into your Newport day-trip cost, so the visit gets priced honestly rather than as a surprise on the way back.