



RV TRIPGEN

The Complete Guide to
RV Travel in
Utah

Mighty 5, Zion tunnel escorts, the I-70 service desert,
and timed-entry reservations you have to book months ahead.

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RV travel in Utah

Utah is the densest concentration of national parks in the country. Zion, Bryce, Capitol Reef, Arches, and Canyonlands -- the Mighty 5 -- all sit within a long week's loop, and Glen Canyon, Cedar Breaks, Natural Bridges, and Grand Staircase fill in the gaps. The roads are mostly excellent, fuel is reasonable, and BLM dispersed camping is widespread. The complications are specific: the Zion-Mt Carmel Tunnel imposes hard size limits on every RV passing east-west through Zion; Arches now requires a timed-entry reservation in peak season; and I-70 between Salina and Green River is the longest stretch of interstate without services in the lower 48. Plan for those three constraints and Utah is straightforward.

Utah by the numbers

Boondocking + dispersed sites	2,098
Established campgrounds	452
Dump stations	118
Propane refills	95
Potable water fill-ups	245
Laundromats	84
RV showers	75
Verified-bad spots (overnight prohibited)	86

Source: iOverlander community database (70% of Utah spots verified in the last 24 months).

Driving rules

Interstate (cars + RVs)	75-80 mph (some I-15 + I-70 segments posted 80)
Interstate (towing)	70 mph on 80 mph segments, otherwise posted
US/State highway (cars)	65 mph (posted)
US/State highway (towing)	65 mph (matching posted)
Built-up areas	25-35 mph (posted)
Drive on	Right
Cell phone use while driving	Hands-free only; texting prohibited statewide
Seatbelts	Required for all occupants

Highways

RV-friendly corridors

Highway	Note
I-15	Spine of populated Utah from St George to Idaho. Big rigs, dense services, occasional canyon-wind warnings near Cedar City.
I-70	East-west across the middle of the state. Salina to Green River is 110 miles with NO fuel, food, or rest stops -- top up before either entry. Spectacular scenery through the San Rafael Swell.
I-80	Salt Lake City to Wyoming via Park City and Echo Canyon. Easy grades, dense services.
US-191	Moab corridor -- I-70 to the Arizona line. Big rigs fine, but Moab is busy Mar-Oct and parking can be tight.
US-89 / US-89A	Scenic alternative south of I-15 from Kanab through to Page AZ. Easy drive, lots of access to Glen Canyon NRA.
UT-95	Hanksville to Blanding via Natural Bridges. Remote, scenic, fuel gaps -- carry extra.

RV-restricted segments

Segment	Restriction
UT-9 / Zion-Mt Carmel Tunnel	Hard size limits: vehicles over 7 ft 10 in wide or 11 ft 4 in tall require a \$15 NPS escort permit and travel in the centre of the tunnel (most RVs need this). Vehicles over 13 ft 1 in tall, 50 ft long, or with bicycles or trailers wider than 7 ft 10 in CANNOT use the tunnel and must reroute via Hurricane on UT-59.
UT-12 (Boulder to Torrey)	9600 ft summit on Boulder Mountain; tight ridge sections at the Hogback. RVs OK to about 35 ft but slow; not for nervous drivers in any rig.
UT-261 / Moki Dugway	Unpaved 1100 ft descent at 10% with switchbacks. Rigs and trailers prohibited; signage says so.
Burr Trail (Boulder to Bullfrog)	Mostly paved but Burr Switchbacks at the east end are unpaved 11% gravel. Not for any RV.
UT-128 (Moab to I-70 along the Colorado River)	Paved and beautiful but narrow with cliff drop-offs. Big rigs over 35 ft will struggle in spots.

Mountain passes

Pass	Elevation	Note
Boulder Mountain (UT-12)	9600 ft	Open year-round but plowed slowly; chains may be required Nov-Apr.

Cedar Breaks (UT-148)	10350 ft	Closed Nov-May.
Soldier Summit (US-6)	7477 ft	Open year-round; storm closures occasional in winter.
Daniels Summit (US-40)	8000 ft	Open year-round; expect snow and wind Nov-Apr.
Bald Mountain Pass (UT-150 / Mirror Lake Highway)	10759 ft	Closed Nov-May.

National parks + monuments

National Park / Monument	Entry fee	Reservation note
Zion NP	\$35/vehicle (7 days), \$80 America the Beautiful annual	Watchman Campground reservable up to 6 months ahead via recreation.gov; rigs to 50 ft. South Campground reservable Mar-Oct. Tunnel escort permit required for most RVs east-west (see highways above). Shuttle-only into the canyon Mar-Nov; no private vehicles past Canyon Junction.
Bryce Canyon NP	\$35/vehicle (7 days)	North + Sunset Campgrounds. Sunset reservable May-Sep; rigs to 30 ft in Loop A. North Loop A first-come, rigs to 30 ft. 8000-9000 ft elevation -- expect cold nights even in summer.
Capitol Reef NP	\$20/vehicle (7 days)	Fruita Campground reservable Mar-Oct via recreation.gov; rigs to 35 ft. Quiet, shaded, the easiest of the Mighty 5 for RVs.
Arches NP	\$30/vehicle (7 days)	Timed-entry reservation required Apr-Oct (check current rules at recreation.gov; system has changed annually). Devils Garden Campground reservable; rigs to 40 ft. Many secondary roads inside the park have tight RV-restricted sections.
Canyonlands NP (Island in the Sky)	\$30/vehicle (7 days)	Willow Flat Campground first-come, rigs to 28 ft. The Maze + Needles districts are remote 4WD country -- not for RVs.
Glen Canyon NRA (Lake Powell)	\$30/vehicle (7 days)	Wahweap Campground reservable; Lone Rock Beach is dry-camp on sand. Bullfrog + Halls Crossing remote but RV-accessible.
Cedar Breaks NM	\$10/vehicle (7 days)	Point Supreme Campground first-come Jun-Sep only (10350 ft elevation -- closed by snow rest of year). Rigs to 30 ft.
Natural Bridges NM	\$20/vehicle (7 days)	13-site campground first-come; 26 ft length limit. Remote -- bring water and fuel.
Dinosaur NM	\$25/vehicle (7 days)	Green River + Split Mountain campgrounds reservable; rigs to 35 ft. Quarry Visitor Center on the Utah side is the headline draw.

State parks

Utah State Parks operates 46 parks, including Goblin Valley (near Hanksville), Dead Horse Point (near Moab; cliff-top sites with full hookups, books out months ahead), Snow Canyon (near St George), Sand Hollow (near St George), Wasatch Mountain, and Antelope Island. Reservations 4 months ahead at stateparks.utah.gov. Day-use \$10-20. Camping \$25-50.

Boondocking + dispersed camping

BLM: Utah has some of the best BLM dispersed camping in the country. The headline areas: around Moab (Klondike Bluffs, Cotter Mine Road; note that Sand Flats Recreation Area is a fee zone, not free dispersed), Hanksville (Lone Mesa near Goblin Valley), House Rock Valley Road between Kanab and Page, and the San Rafael Swell off I-70 (Wedge Overlook, Buckhorn Wash). Standard 14-day stay limit; some districts post 7-day or 30-day exceptions -- read the kiosk on arrival. Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument permits dispersed camping but with seasonal restrictions in some zones.

National Forest: Manti-La Sal, Dixie, Fishlake, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache, and Ashley National Forests all permit dispersed camping along forest roads. Fire restrictions are common Jun-Oct; check the specific forest's current order before lighting. Manti-La Sal NF roads above Moab (La Sal Loop) are popular but at 8000-9500 ft elevation -- cool even in July.

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

Tribal lands

Utah includes the western Navajo Nation (SE corner around Mexican Hat, Monument Valley, Bluff), the Ute Indian Reservation in the NE, the Goshute, Paiute, and Skull Valley reservations. Monument Valley Tribal Park (\$8/person) operates The View Campground for RVs. Navajo Nation observes Daylight Saving (Mountain Daylight Time) while the rest of Utah does NOT during overlap windows -- watch the time-zone signs. Dispersed camping is generally not permitted on tribal land.

Propane, dump stations, fuel

Propane: Plentiful in St George, Cedar City, Salt Lake City, Provo, Logan, Vernal, and Moab. Sparse along US-191 south of Moab and along UT-95 / UT-12. U-Haul and Tractor Supply locations are reliable. Most state and national park campgrounds do not refill on-site.

Dump stations: Dense in metro Salt Lake City, along I-15 and I-70, and at all state parks. Most NPS campgrounds in Utah have dump stations for registered guests. Flying J / Pilot stations on I-15 and I-70 charge \$10-15. Notable gap: UT-12 between Boulder and Torrey has none for 60 miles.

Fuel: Diesel and gas widely available along I-15, I-70, I-80, and US-191. Notable fuel gaps: I-70 Salina-to-Green River (110 miles), UT-95 Hanksville-to-Blanding (110 miles, single station midway often closed), and US-89 between Kanab and Page if heading via the back roads. Carry extra in eastern Utah south of Moab. Fuel prices are usually lowest in St George and Salt Lake; highest in Moab and the Hanksville area.

Weather windows

Best months: Mid-April through May and mid-September through October. Daytime highs 65-85 F in the southern parks; cooler at Bryce/Cedar Breaks elevation. Late spring and early autumn give the best

balance of open passes and tolerable desert temperatures.

Avoid: July and August in the southern desert parks (Zion + Arches + Canyonlands routinely hit 100-110 F; Lake Powell pavement burns barefoot). November-April for the high passes (UT-12, Boulder Mountain, Cedar Breaks closed). Monsoon thunderstorms Jul-Sep can flash-flood slot canyons and unpaved BLM roads within minutes -- never camp in or cross a wash with a storm anywhere upstream.

Climate caution

Slot canyon flash-flood deaths happen every monsoon season. Check the National Weather Service forecast for the entire upstream watershed, not just your immediate location, before any wash camping or canyon hike.

Emergency + road conditions

State patrol

Dial 9-1-1 for emergencies; (801) 887-3800 for UHP non-emergency

Road conditions

<https://www.udottraffic.utah.gov>

How RV TripGen helps

We size every Utah leg against the Zion tunnel

If your rig dimensions trigger the Zion-Mt Carmel Tunnel escort permit, RV TripGen flags it on the route, books the permit window, and re-routes via UT-59 if your rig exceeds the hard limits.

Timed-entry reservations tracked

Arches timed-entry, Watchman + Devils Garden + Fruita campground openings -- RV TripGen prompts you when each booking window opens for your trip dates so the popular sites don't disappear.