

**RV TRIPGEN**

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

Foliage capital, covered-bridge clearance traps, Green Mountain NF dispersed,  
and the back-road math that turns 30 miles into two hours.

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

# RV travel in Vermont

Vermont is the most rural state in New England and the prettiest in foliage season -- which is also when every RV in the Northeast tries to be here at the same time. The Green Mountain National Forest allows free dispersed camping along its forest roads, the state-park system is well-run, and the back-roads are genuinely scenic. The catch is the back-roads themselves: dozens of historic covered bridges with 8-12 ft clearances, single-lane dirt roads marked the same as paved state highways on consumer maps, and grade descents into river valleys that punish marginal brakes. Stick to US-7, US-2, I-89, and I-91, plan foliage bookings 6-12 months out, and Vermont is one of the most rewarding small states in the country for an RV.

## Vermont by the numbers

<b>Boondocking + dispersed sites</b>	216
<b>Established campgrounds</b>	47
<b>Dump stations</b>	10
<b>Propane refills</b>	12
<b>Potable water fill-ups</b>	31
<b>Laundromats</b>	14
<b>RV showers</b>	14
<b>Verified-bad spots (overnight prohibited)</b>	19

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

## Driving rules

<b>Interstate (cars)</b>	65 mph (most rural segments)
<b>Interstate (trucks + towing)</b>	Matches posted (no separate trailer limit)
<b>US/State highway (cars + towing)</b>	50 mph default; 35-45 mph on most secondary routes
<b>Built-up areas</b>	25-35 mph (posted; many villages 25 mph)
<b>Drive on</b>	Right
<b>Seatbelts</b>	Required for all front-seat occupants and all under-18
<b>Cell phone use while driving</b>	Hands-free only; texting + all hand-held use prohibited

## Highways

## RV-friendly corridors

Highway	Note
I-89	White River Junction to Burlington and the Canadian border. Main north-south interstate; smooth four-lane through the Champlain Valley.
I-91	Brattleboro to Newport (Canadian border). Eastern spine of the state; rural and quiet.
US-7	Bennington to Burlington via Manchester, Rutland, and Middlebury. The Champlain Valley's main two-lane. Easy big-rig route; busy in foliage season.
US-2	Burlington to St Johnsbury cross-state. Four-lane around Montpelier, two-lane elsewhere. Snow common Nov-Apr.
US-4	Rutland to White River Junction. Two-lane with the Killington-area pass; manageable for most rigs in dry weather.
VT-100	Stamford to Newport, the spine of the Green Mountains. Two-lane, scenic, slower -- but the iconic Vermont drive. Foliage-season traffic crawls.

## RV-restricted segments

Segment	Restriction
Smugglers Notch (VT-108 between Stowe and Jeffersonville)	Closed to trailers, large trucks, and RVs over 36 ft year-round. The road is physically blocked at boulders the state placed to enforce this. Do not believe your GPS.
Lincoln Gap Road (Lincoln to Warren)	Closed Nov-May. Steepest paved road in Vermont; 24% grade sections. Not for any RV, ever.
Brandon Gap (VT-73)	Manageable but tight. 8% grades both sides. Avoid in winter.
Most covered bridges (50+ across the state)	Clearances from 8'0" to 11'6". Vermont posts clearances aggressively but consumer GPS rarely does. Check posted clearance before approaching.
VT-9 west of Brattleboro (Hogback Mountain)	Tight switchbacks and a 9% grade descending to Wilmington. Manageable for most RVs but use low gear.
Most unpaved town highways	Vermont has more dirt road than paved road. Roads marked as "VT-Xtown" or with no class designation may be unmaintained, single-lane, and dead-end. Stick to numbered routes (I-, US-, VT-).

## Mountain passes

Pass	Elevation	Note
Hogback Mountain (VT-9 west of Brattleboro)	2410 ft	Two-lane with 8-9% descents. Manageable for most rigs but use low gear.

Killington-area (US-4 at Sherburne Pass)	2150 ft	Two-lane interstate-adjacent pass. Manageable for most rigs.
Brandon Gap (VT-73)	2170 ft	Tight two-lane, 8% grades. Avoid in winter.
Middlebury Gap (VT-125)	2149 ft	Two-lane through Green Mountain NF. Manageable for most RVs.
Lincoln Gap (Lincoln to Warren)	2424 ft	Closed Nov-May. 24% grade sections. Not for any RV.

## National parks + monuments

National Park / Monument	Entry fee	Reservation note
Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHS	Free entry (mansion tour \$10)	Woodstock, VT. Day-use only, no camping. Small lot near village green; tow-car parking fine, RVs use Billings Farm next door.
Appalachian National Scenic Trail (corridor)	Free	Trail crosses Vermont via the Long Trail south of US-4 and along its own corridor north. Trailhead parking only; no RV camping on the corridor.

## State parks

Vermont State Parks operates 55 parks; about 30 have RV camping. Mt Philo, Smugglers Notch (the state-park area, not the closed road), Quechee, Half Moon Pond, and Grand Isle are popular RV units. Reservable up to 11 months in advance via [vtstateparks.com](http://vtstateparks.com). Day-use \$4-5/person, camping \$20-35/night. Most VT state parks have no hookups (centralised fill and dump); a handful offer 30-amp electric. Bring tanks ready.

## Boondocking + dispersed camping

**BLM:** No BLM land in Vermont. Public-land boondocking is concentrated in the Green Mountain National Forest.

**National Forest:** Green Mountain National Forest (400,000+ acres in two units, north and south) permits free dispersed camping along most forest roads, 200 ft from any road, water, or trail. Popular areas: FR 71 (Texas Falls area), FR 21 (Mt Tabor area), and the Somerset Reservoir loop. Most forest roads are unpaved -- check your clearance and rig size before committing. Stay limit 14 days, then move 5 miles.

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

## Tribal lands

Vermont recognises four state-recognised Abenaki bands (Elnu, Koasek, Missisquoi, Nulhegan), none with federally-recognised sovereign land. No tribal RV facilities. The Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge near Swanton sits on land of historic Abenaki significance and welcomes day visitors.

## Propane, dump stations, fuel

**Propane:** Reasonable coverage in Burlington, Rutland, Brattleboro, and St Johnsbury. Sparse in the Northeast Kingdom (Newport, Island Pond, Canaan) -- top up before heading there. Most KOA and Good

Sam parks fill on-site. U-Haul locations in Burlington, Rutland, and Brattleboro are reliable for refills.

**Dump stations:** Reasonable coverage in the Champlain Valley and along I-89/I-91. Most VT State Parks with camping offer free dump stations for registered guests. Truck stops at Williston (I-89), Berlin (Montpelier exit), and White River Junction have fee dump stations (\$10-15). Sparse in the Northeast Kingdom.

**Fuel:** Diesel and gas widely available along all interstates, US-7, and US-2. Genuinely sparse on VT-100 between Stowe and Newport, on the back roads of the Northeast Kingdom, and in the Green Mountain NF interior. Carry an extra 5 gallons for the back roads. Fuel prices typically lowest in the Champlain Valley (Burlington area) and highest in foliage-season tourist towns (Stowe, Woodstock, Manchester).

## Weather windows

**Best months:** Late June through mid-October. Daytime highs 70-85 F valleys, 60-75 F in the mountains. Foliage peaks the last week of September through the first week of October -- book 6-12 months ahead for that window.

**Avoid:** Mid-November through mid-April. Most state-park campgrounds close. Snow common; nighttime lows in the single digits or below zero. Mud season (April through early May) can close back roads, forest roads, and many town highways. Black-fly season (late May to mid-June) is brutal in the Green Mountains.

### Climate caution

Vermont's foliage week books out faster than any other RV destination in the East. State-park reservations open 11 months ahead at 8 am sharp; private parks open 12 months ahead. Be ready the morning the window opens.

## Emergency + road conditions

<b>State patrol</b>	Dial 911 for emergencies; (802) 244-7345 for non-emergency state police dispatch
<b>Road conditions</b>	<a href="https://newengland511.org">https://newengland511.org</a>

## How RV TripGen helps

### Smugglers Notch flagged automatically

RV TripGen blocks routing of any RV over 36 ft through Smugglers Notch (VT-108) regardless of what your phone GPS suggests -- the road is physically closed to large vehicles and the boulders don't move.

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**Foliage-week pricing surfaced before you commit**

RV TripGen surfaces Vermont state-park and private-park rates during the foliage window (last week Sep through first week Oct), often 2-3x off-season, so you can shift dates or book the day reservations open.