

How Long Can You Stay at a Rest Area? State-by-State Summary

	Max Length of Stay	Overnight Parking Allowed?	Camping Allowed?	Notes
Alabama	None	Yes	Yes	Some rest areas have signs posted "No long term parking of vehicles", but have not defined what long term means.
Alaska	None	Yes	Yes	
Arizona	None	Yes	Yes	
Arkansas	None	Yes	Yes	
California	8 hours	Yes	No	
Colorado	None	No	No	
Connecticut	None	Yes	Yes	
Delaware	6 hours	Yes	No	Delaware has only one rest area, and one service plaza. The rest area has a 6 hour max for cars, 8 hours for trucks and RVs. The service plaza has no max limit.
Florida	3 hours	Yes	Yes	10 hours max for commercial drivers, 3 hours max for all others.
Georgia	None	Yes	No	Overnight parking is prohibited at visitor information centers, but allowed at rest areas.
Hawaii	None	No	No	Hawaii has no rest areas, but has scenic lookouts. Laws prohibit overnight parking along highways statewide.
Idaho	10 hours	Yes	No	10 hours max on Interstates, 16 hours max on state highways.
Illinois	3 hours	Yes	No	
Indiana	None	Yes	Yes	A few rest areas have posted signs prohibiting overnight parking and camping. It's our opinion this applies only to those rest areas.
Iowa	24 hours	Yes	No	
Kansas	24 hours	Yes	Yes	Most rest areas have camping loops for RVs.
Kentucky	4 hours	Yes	Yes	
Louisiana	None	Yes	Yes	
Maine	None	Yes	Yes	
Maryland	3 hours	No	No	If you need more time, you can visit the rest area information center or caretaker, and request more time. They will issue you a permit to stick to your window.
Massachusetts	None	Yes	Yes	A few rest areas have posted signs limiting you to two hours, and a few others have posted signs prohibiting overnight parking. It's our opinion this applies only to those rest areas.
Michigan	None	Yes	Yes	A few rest areas have posted signs prohibiting overnight parking and camping. It's our opinion this applies only to those rest areas.
Minnesota	4 hours	Yes	Yes	10 hours maximum for commercial drivers, 4 hours max for all others.
Mississippi	8 hours	Yes	No	
Missouri	None	Yes	No	
Montana	None	Yes	Yes	
Nebraska	10 hours	No	No	
Nevada	18 hours	Yes	Yes	
New Hampshire	None	Yes	No	
New Jersey	None	Yes	Yes	There are a few rest areas where overnight parking is prohibited for passenger vehicles, but still allowed for trucks.

	Max Length of Stay	Overnight Parking Allowed?	Camping Allowed?	Notes
New Mexico	24 hours	Yes	No	
New York	3 hours	Yes	No	10 hours max for commercial drivers, 3 hours max for all others. 4 hour max at service plazas
North Carolina	None	No	No	
North Dakota	None	Yes	No	
Ohio	None	Yes	No	
Oklahoma	None	Yes	Yes	
Oregon	12 hours	Yes	No	
Pennsylvania	2 hours	Yes	No	24 hour max at service plazas
Rhode Island	None	Yes	Yes	
South Carolina	None	No	No	
South Dakota	3 hours	Yes	No	10 hours max for commercial drivers, 3 hours for all others.
Tennessee	2 hours	No	No	
Texas	24 hours	Yes	Yes	
Utah	None	Yes	No	
Vermont	None	Yes	No	
Virginia	None	No	No	
Washington	8 hours	Yes	No	
West Virginia	None	Yes	Yes	
Wisconsin	24 hours	Yes	No	
Wyoming	None	Yes	No	

Overnight Parking:

"Yes" does not mean the state endorses overnight parking, it only means they have no laws prohibiting it.

"No" means they have a law prohibiting overnight parking at rest areas.

Camping:

States generally define "camping" as erecting a shelter (such as a tent), or sleeping on the ground. It's not the same as sleeping in a vehicle overnight.

"Yes" does not mean the state endorses camping, it only means they have no laws prohibiting it.

"No" means they have a law prohibiting camping at rest areas.

Notes:

We are aware that other websites have published conflicting information than what we have presented here. However, we are confident the information published here reflects the most accurate as of this date. This was researched through state statutes, state administrative rules, publications issued by state departments of transportation and signs posted (or not posted) at rest areas during our own travels across the United States.