

# ***Interstate Travel Guide***

*Rest Areas and Welcome Centers Along Interstate Highways*

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# CONTENTS

---

**Introduction 8**

**Alabama 11**

Interstate 10 .....12  
Interstate 20 .....12  
Interstate 59 .....13  
Interstate 65 .....13  
Interstate 85 .....14

**Arizona 15**

Interstate 8 .....16  
Interstate 10 .....16  
Interstate 17 .....17  
Interstate 19 .....17  
Interstate 40 .....17

**Arkansas 19**

Interstate 30 .....20  
Interstate 40 .....20  
Interstate 55 .....21

**California 22**

Interstate 5 .....23  
Interstate 8 .....24  
Interstate 10 .....25  
Interstate 15 .....25  
Interstate 40 .....26  
Interstate 80 .....26  
Interstate 280 .....27

**Colorado 28**

Interstate 25 .....29  
Interstate 70 .....29  
Interstate 76 .....31

**Connecticut 32**

Interstate 84 .....33  
Interstate 91 .....33  
Interstate 95 .....33  
Interstate 395 .....34

**Delaware 35**

Interstate 95 .....36

**Florida 37**

Interstate 4 .....38  
Interstate 10 .....38  
Interstate 75 .....39  
Interstate 95 .....40  
Interstate 275 .....41  
Florida Turnpike .....41

**Georgia 43**

Interstate 16 .....44  
Interstate 20 .....44  
Interstate 59 .....45  
Interstate 75 .....45  
Interstate 85 .....46  
Interstate 95 .....46  
Interstate 185 .....47  
Interstate 475 .....47

**Idaho 48**

Interstate 15 .....49  
Interstate 84 .....49  
Interstate 86 .....50  
Interstate 90 .....50

**Illinois 51**

Interstate 24 .....	52
Interstate 39 .....	52
Interstate 55 .....	52
Interstate 57 .....	53
Interstate 64 .....	54
Interstate 70 .....	54
Interstate 72 .....	55
Interstate 74 .....	55
Interstate 80 .....	55
Interstate 88 .....	56
Interstate 90 .....	56
Interstate 94 .....	57
Interstate 294 .....	57

**Indiana 59**

Interstate 64 .....	60
Interstate 65 .....	60
Interstate 69 .....	61
Interstate 70 .....	61
Interstate 74 .....	62
Interstate 80 .....	62
Interstate 90 .....	63
Interstate 94 .....	64

**Iowa 65**

Interstate 29 .....	66
Interstate 35 .....	66
Interstate 80 .....	67
Interstate 380 .....	69
Interstate 680 .....	69

**Kansas 70**

Interstate 35 .....	71
Interstate 70 .....	71
Interstate 135 .....	72
Interstate 335 .....	73

**Kentucky 74**

Interstate 24 .....	75
Interstate 64 .....	75
Interstate 65 .....	76
Interstate 71 .....	76
Interstate 75 .....	77

**Louisiana 78**

Interstate 10 .....	79
Interstate 20 .....	79
Interstate 49 .....	80
Interstate 55 .....	80
Interstate 59 .....	80

**Maine 81**

Interstate 95 .....	82
Interstate 295 .....	83

**Maryland 84**

Interstate 68 .....	85
Interstate 70 .....	85
Interstate 95 .....	85
Interstate 270 .....	86

**Massachusetts 87**

Interstate 84 .....	88
Interstate 90 .....	88
Interstate 91 .....	89
Interstate 95 .....	89
Interstate 195 .....	90
Interstate 495 .....	90

**Michigan 91**

Interstate 69 .....	92
Interstate 75 .....	92
Interstate 94 .....	94

Interstate 96 .....95  
 Interstate 196 .....96  
 Interstate 275 .....96

**Minnesota 97**

Interstate 35 .....98  
 Interstate 90 .....99  
 Interstate 94 .....100

**Mississippi 101**

Interstate 10 .....102  
 Interstate 20 .....102  
 Interstate 55 .....103  
 Interstate 59 .....104

**Missouri 105**

Interstate 29 .....106  
 Interstate 35 .....106  
 Interstate 44 .....107  
 Interstate 55 .....107  
 Interstate 70 .....108  
 Interstate 270 .....108

**Montana 109**

Interstate 15 .....110  
 Interstate 90 .....111  
 Interstate 94 .....112

**Nebraska 113**

Interstate 80 .....114

**Nevada 116**

Interstate 15 .....117  
 Interstate 80 .....117

**New Hampshire 119**

Interstate 89 .....120  
 Interstate 93 .....120  
 Interstate 95 .....121

**New Jersey 122**

Interstate 78 .....123  
 Interstate 80 .....123  
 New Jersey Turnpike ..123  
 Interstate 287 .....124  
 Interstate 295 .....125

**New Mexico 126**

Interstate 10 .....127  
 Interstate 25 .....127  
 Interstate 40 .....128

**New York 129**

Interstate 81 .....130  
 Interstate 84 .....130  
 Interstate 86 .....131  
 Interstate 87 .....132  
 Interstate 88 .....134  
 Interstate 90 .....134  
 Interstate 390 .....136  
 Interstate 495 .....137

**North Carolina 138**

Interstate 26 .....139  
 Interstate 40 .....139  
 Interstate 77 .....140  
 Interstate 85 .....140  
 Interstate 95 .....141

**North Dakota 142**

Interstate 29 .....	143
Interstate 94 .....	143

**Ohio 145**

Interstate 70 .....	146
Interstate 71 .....	146
Interstate 75 .....	147
Interstate 76 .....	147
Interstate 77 .....	148
Interstate 80 .....	148
Interstate 90 .....	149
Interstate 271 .....	150

**Oklahoma 151**

Interstate 35 .....	152
Interstate 40 .....	152
Interstate 44 .....	153

**Oregon 155**

Interstate 5 .....	156
Interstate 82 .....	157
Interstate 84 .....	157
Interstate 205 .....	158

**Pennsylvania 159**

Interstate 70 .....	160
Interstate 76 .....	160
Interstate 78 .....	162
Interstate 79 .....	162
Interstate 80 .....	163
Interstate 81 .....	164
Interstate 83 .....	165
Interstate 84 .....	165
Interstate 90 .....	165
Interstate 95 .....	166

Interstate 276 .....	166
Interstate 476 .....	166

**Rhode Island 168**

Interstate 95 .....	168
---------------------	-----

**South Carolina 169**

Interstate 20 .....	170
Interstate 26 .....	170
Interstate 77 .....	171
Interstate 85 .....	171
Interstate 95 .....	172
Interstate 385 .....	172

**South Dakota 173**

Interstate 29 .....	174
Interstate 90 .....	174

**Tennessee 176**

Interstate 24 .....	177
Interstate 26 .....	177
Interstate 40 .....	177
Interstate 55 .....	179
Interstate 65 .....	179
Interstate 75 .....	179
Interstate 81 .....	180
Interstate 155 .....	180

**Texas 181**

Interstate 10 .....	182
Interstate 20 .....	184
Interstate 27 .....	185
Interstate 30 .....	185
Interstate 35 .....	186
Interstate 35W.....	187
Interstate 37 .....	187

Interstate 40 .....188  
Interstate 44 .....189  
Interstate 45 .....189

**Utah 190**

Interstate 15 .....191  
Interstate 70 .....192  
Interstate 80 .....193  
Interstate 84 .....193

**Vermont 194**

Interstate 89 .....195  
Interstate 91 .....195  
Interstate 93 .....196

**Virginia 197**

Interstate 64 .....198  
Interstate 66 .....198  
Interstate 77 .....199  
Interstate 81 .....199  
Interstate 85 .....200  
Interstate 95 .....201

**Washington 202**

Interstate 5 .....203  
Interstate 82 .....203  
Interstate 90 .....204

**West Virginia 205**

Interstate 64 .....206  
Interstate 68 .....206  
Interstate 70 .....207  
Interstate 77 .....207  
Interstate 79 .....208  
Interstate 81 .....208

**Wisconsin 209**

Interstate 39 .....210  
Interstate 43 .....210  
Interstate 90 .....211  
Interstate 94 .....212

**Wyoming 213**

Interstate 25 .....214  
Interstate 80 .....214  
Interstate 90 .....216

**Flying J Locations 217**

# INTRODUCTION

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Each year, millions of travelers take to America's Interstate highways. Some are on vacation or a road trip, others are traveling on business, and some are full-time RVers enjoying retirement on the road. Whatever the reason, it's nice to know where the rest areas are along the way. That's what this book is about.

## Rest Areas and Welcome Centers

Rest areas not only offer relief when nature calls but also provide a place for the weary traveler to take a break from driving. You can also walk the family pet or buy a soft drink and snack from vending machines. Some rest areas, particularly along toll highways, sell food and fuel. These are usually known as service areas or plazas.

Rest area usage rules vary by state and each rest area. Some impose a time limit to how long you can stay. Others allow you to park overnight. A few even have a camping area complete with electric hookups for RVers. If you plan to stay in a rest area for more than a few hours, be sure to read the rules (usually posted near the restrooms).

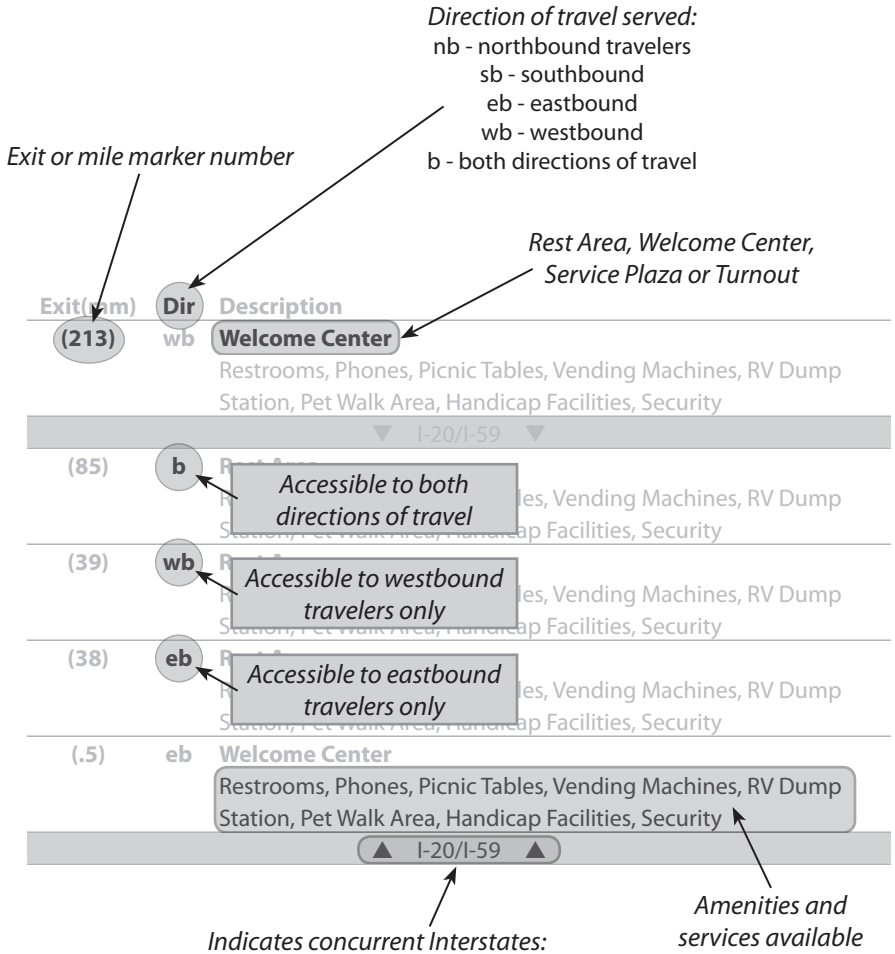
Welcome centers are most often found just after entering a state. It is here that you can obtain maps and brochures featuring various attractions within the state. Most welcome centers are staffed with knowledgeable personnel that can help you better enjoy your visit.

## About this Book

This book is arranged alphabetically by state with Interstate highways listed from lowest to highest. Each Interstate is introduced with a brief description, including its length and general direction of travel within the state. That is followed by a chart indicating the services available along the route. See the sample chart on the next page.

It is important to note that your direction of travel determines how you read the chart. If you are traveling south or west, read down the chart. If you are traveling north or east, read up the chart. As a reminder of this, you'll find directional arrows to the left of each chart.

# Sample Chart



## Contact Information

If you need more information about a particular rest area (or inquire about lost items), try contacting the state's Department of Transportation. Telephone numbers for each state are provided. You'll also find phone numbers for each state's Tourism Office. These offices can mail you a travel kit to aid you in planning a trip to their state.

## Understanding Mile Markers and Exit Numbers

Mile markers, or mileposts as they are also known, are the vertical green signs on the edge of highways placed at one-mile intervals. Mile marker numbering begins at the most southerly or westerly point in a state. For example, if you enter Colorado from New Mexico, mile markers will increase as you travel north through Colorado. Likewise if you were to enter Colorado from Utah, mile markers would increase as you travel east through Colorado. California is the only state that does not use mile markers. Instead they use a Post Mile system with numbering beginning and ending at county lines.

Interstate exit numbers are determined by one of two methods. The first, and most widely used, is based on the mile marker system. Using this method, the first exit number on an Interstate as you travel south to north or west to east is determined by its distance from the state line. For example, if an exit is located between mile markers 4 and 5, it is numbered as Exit 4. The next exit, if located at mile marker 8.7, would be numbered as Exit 8. Thus you would know that you must travel approximately 4 miles to reach the next exit. Using this method of exit numbering helps to determine the location and distance to a desired exit.

The second method of numbering Interstate exits is the consecutive numbering system, which means Interstate exit numbers begin at the most southerly or westerly point and increase consecutively as you travel north or east. Using this method, the first exit on an Interstate as you travel south to north or west to east is Exit 1. Each exit thereafter increases consecutively as Exit 2, Exit 3 and so on. Few states use this method.

As mentioned above, California does not use mile markers nor does it indicate exits with a number. This is changing, however. In January of 2002, California began erecting signs displaying exit numbers based on the mile marker system. The exit numbers and mile marker numbers used in this book are based on the new proposed numbers that California has assigned.

# ALABAMA

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**Rest Area Usage:** No overnight parking or camping.

**Department of Transportation:** 334-242-6358

**Tourism Information:** 800-252-2262

## ROUTES

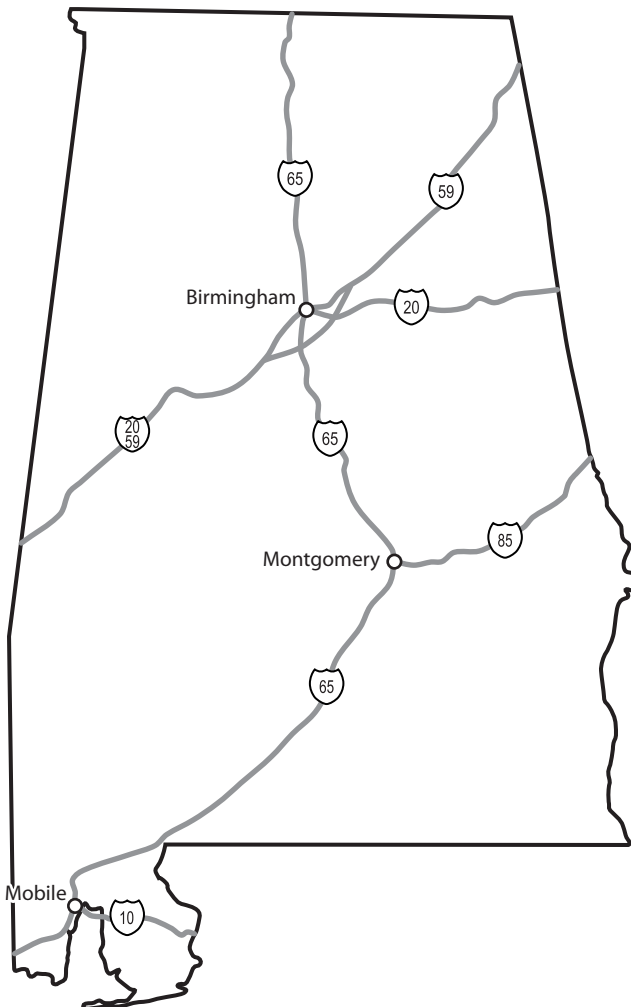
I-10

I-20

I-59

I-65

I-85



## Interstate 10

Interstate 10 in Alabama runs east to west for 67 miles from the Florida state line to the Mississippi state line. Eastbound travelers should read up the chart. Westbound travelers read down the chart.

	Exit(mm)	Dir	Description
E ↑ ↓ W	(66)	wb	<b>Welcome Center</b> Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, Security
	(1)	eb	<b>Welcome Center</b> Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, Security

## Interstate 20

Interstate 20 in Alabama runs east to west for approximately 215 miles from the Georgia state line to the Mississippi state line. A portion of the highway from Birmingham to Mississippi is also I-59. Eastbound travelers should read up the chart. Westbound travelers read down the chart.

	Exit(mm)	Dir	Description
E ↑ ↓ W	(213)	wb	<b>Welcome Center</b> Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, Security
	▼ I-20/I-59 ▼		
	(85)	b	<b>Rest Area</b> Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, Security
	(39)	wb	<b>Rest Area</b> Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, Security
	(38)	eb	<b>Rest Area</b> Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, Security
	(.5)	eb	<b>Welcome Center</b> Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, Security
▲ I-20/I-59 ▲			

## Interstate 59

Interstate 59 runs north to south for 242 miles from the Georgia state line to the Mississippi state line. A portion of the highway from Birmingham to Mississippi is also I-20. Northbound travelers should read up the chart. Southbound travelers read down the chart.

Exit(mm)	Dir	Description
(241)	sb	<b>Welcome Center</b> Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, Security
(168)	sb	<b>Rest Area</b> Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, Security
(165)	nb	<b>Rest Area</b> Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, Security
▼ I-20/I-59 ▼		
(85)	b	<b>Rest Area</b> Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, Security
(39)	sb	<b>Rest Area</b> Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, Security
(38)	nb	<b>Rest Area</b> Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, Security
(.5)	nb	<b>Welcome Center</b> Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, Security
▲ I-20/I-59 ▲		

## Interstate 65

Interstate 65 in Alabama runs north to south for 367 miles from the Tennessee state line to Interstate 10. Northbound travelers should read up the chart. Southbound travelers read down the chart.

Exit(mm)	Dir	Description
(364)	sb	<b>Welcome Center</b> Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, Security

N ↑ ↓ S	<b>(302)</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>Rest Area</b> Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, Security
	<b>(213)</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>Rest Area</b> Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, Security
	<b>(133)</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>Rest Area</b> Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, Security
	<b>(89)</b>	<b>sb</b>	<b>Rest Area</b> Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, Security
	<b>(85)</b>	<b>nb</b>	<b>Rest Area</b> Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, Security

## Interstate 85

Interstate 85 in Alabama runs north to south for 80 miles from the Georgia state line to I-65 in Montgomery. Northbound travelers should read up the chart. Southbound travelers read down the chart.

Exit(mm)	Dir	Description
<b>(78)</b>	<b>sb</b>	<b>Welcome Center</b> Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, Security
<b>(44)</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>Rest Area</b> Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, Security