

Interstate Rest Area Guide

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Phone
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Internet
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Introduction

The information presented in this publication is designed to help you easily locate rest areas along Interstate highways. Understanding how the information is presented, and learning the difference between a mile marker and exit number, will aid you in using this ebook.

Mile Markers and Exit Numbers

Mile Markers

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.

Exit Numbers

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 of numbering Interstate exits.

California's Numbering System

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 publication for California are based on the proposed numbers that California has assigned.

Rest Area Charts

Rest area information is presented in a chart. Depending on your direction of travel, you'll either read up the chart or down the chart. If you are traveling north or east, read up the chart. If you are traveling south or west, read down the chart. See below for an explanation of each column heading.

Interstate

The Interstate number.

Exit(mm)

The exit or mile marker where the rest area is located. Mile markers are surrounded by parentheses.

Dir

The direction of travel served by the rest area. Abbreviations are as follows:

- b accessible to both directions of travel
- sb accessible to southbound travelers
- nb accessible to northbound travelers
- eb accessible to eastbound travelers
- wb accessible to westbound travelers

Locale

The name of a nearby city or town.

Type

The type of rest area including:

- Rest Area
- Welcome Center
- Service Plaza
- Turnout

Amenities/Notes

A list of amenities available at the rest area including:

- Restrooms
- Family Restrooms
- Phones
- Picnic Tables
- Vending Machines
- RV Dump Station
- Pet Walk Area
- Handicap Facilities
- On-Site Security
- Wireless Internet
- Gas
- Food
- Miscellaneous Notes

Overnight Parking Rules

State	Overnight Parking?	Details
Alabama	No	No overnight parking or camping.
Arizona	Yes	Overnight parking permitted; no camping.
Arkansas	Yes	Overnight parking for safety reasons only; no camping

Department of Transportation Information

State	Phone	Web Site
Alabama	334-242-6358	www.dot.state.al.us/docs
Arizona	602-712-7355	www.dot.state.az.us
Arkansas	501-569-2000	www.arkansashighways.com

Alabama

Interstate	Exit(mm)	Dir	Locale	Type	Amenities/Notes
10	(65)	wb	Seminole	Welcome Center	Baldwin Welcome Center Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, On-Site Security • Security Hours: 9pm to 5am
10	(0.7)	eb	Grand Bay	Welcome Center	Grand Bay Welcome Center Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, On-Site Security • Security Hours: 8pm to 6am (summer); 6pm to 6am (winter)

Interstate	Exit(mm)	Dir	Locale	Type	Amenities/Notes
20	(213)	wb	Heflin	Welcome Center	Robert S. Hardy Welcome Center Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, On-Site Security • Security Hours: 6pm to 6am

Note: I-20 below runs concurrent with I-59

20	(84)	wb	Cottondale	Rest Area	Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, On-Site Security • Security Hours: 11pm to 7am
20	(84)	eb	Cottondale	Rest Area	Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, On-Site Security • Security Hours: 11pm to 7am
20	(39)	wb	Eutaw	Rest Area	Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, On-Site Security • Security Hours: 8pm to 6am
20	(38)	eb	Eutaw	Rest Area	Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, On-Site Security • Security Hours: 8pm to 6am
20	(0.4)	eb	Cuba	Welcome Center	Sumter Welcome Center Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, On-Site Security • Security Hours: 9pm to 5am

Note: I-20 above runs concurrent with I-59

Interstate	Exit(mm)	Dir	Locale	Type	Amenities/Notes
59	(240)	sb	Valley Head	Welcome Center	Alabama Welcome Center Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, On-Site Security • Security Hours: 10pm to 6am
59	(167)	sb	Ashville	Rest Area	Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, On-Site Security • Security Hours: 8pm to 6am
59	(165)	nb	Ashville	Rest Area	Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, On-Site Security • Security Hours: 8pm to 6am

Note: I-59 below runs concurrent with I-20

59	(84)	sb	Cottondale	Rest Area	Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, On-Site Security • Security Hours: 11pm to 7am
59	(84)	nb	Cottondale	Rest Area	Restrooms, Phones, Picnic Tables, Vending Machines, RV Dump Station, Pet Walk Area, Handicap Facilities, On-Site Security • Security Hours: 11pm to 7am