



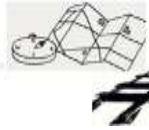
## U.S. HITCH HIKING INFORMATION

### GENERAL INFORMATION FOR THE UNITED STATES

The United States of America as a country is divided up into 50 states; for the convenience of the common hitchhiker these states are discussed in detail along with their capitals at the following pages (see below). The US is bordered by Canada to the North and Mexico to the South.

Hitching, like everything else in America, varies greatly depending on what type of area and what part of the country you are passing through. In general you can get rides fairly easily if you hitchhike the right way; in fact, often you can find more than just rides, such as offers for free meals, invitations to homes and parties, etc.

Relatively quite a few people in the United States are profoundly religious. People who pick you up might inquire about your religion. If you're not religious, try to deal with it in a positive way and accept the difference. More often you will be picked up by really cool people, and often dropped off exactly at the point of your destination, as hitchhiker Guaka's experience shows, for example. Detours for hitchhikers are much more common here than in Europe due to cheaper gas.



## METHODS FOR CATCHING RIDES

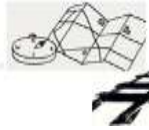
### LONG DISTANCE

If you're going for speed over a long distance (3+ hours), then the best bet is to stay on the interstates (designated on maps by "i-#": road signs appearing like this) instead of local highways. Try to stick to on-ramps that have truck stops, rest stops or any other reason for drivers to stop there (restaurants, gas stations, hotels, etc.). State highways is also a good way to catch rides especially when your destination is not very near to an interstate, Its easier to hitch a ride on interstates as drivers are more relaxed and not going very fast.

Often times the best way to hitchhike is just to stay on high traffic ramps with large shoulders for people to pull over on. Getting dropped off on a low-traffic exit is the gravest danger when hitching on interstates, especially where the police are unfriendly. It can easily lead to long, long delays. Identify the last truck stop, major intersection (with a non-freeway), or rest area before your driver's destination, and get off there rather than risking getting stuck. If you do get stuck on a low traffic ramp, you can try hitchhiking on the highway itself even if pedestrians are prohibited. There is a good chance you will get picked up before police see you, and if they do they are just going to give you a warning and ask you to go back to the ramp or even give you a ride to the next one just to get rid of you...

Asking for rides at rest areas, particularly on toll roads such as I-90 between Boston and Chicago is one of the quickest ways to get a very long distance ride, but soliciting and loitering is prohibited there and sometimes you will be kicked out before finding a ride. A good way to avoid being kicked out is to greet everyone entering the building with a friendly smile and give them a friendly nod, and then ask them for a ride as they leave the building. This gives them time to become comfortable with your presence and prevents them from having the opportunity to complain about your solicitation to the employees.

You can also look for rides at the truck stops or gas stations themselves, but be discreet about it as with rest areas, some customers will complain and staff will make you leave the property. As a rule Love's, Petro, and TA truck stops will be the quickest to kick you out. Pilot/Flying J truck stops and smaller locally owned truck stops are generally a lot more lenient. You may even find signs that prohibit you from soliciting a ride, so caution is necessary like asking instead of showing them a sign to your destination.



## SHORT DISTANCE

If you are only going a hundred miles, you can often make better time on US highways, state highways or local roads. Even if you are going long distances, if you aren't concerned about making good time, getting off the interstates can be a very rewarding experience. Local highways will grant you a better picture of what local life is like in that area, and typically offer a greater variety of drivers and scenery. To hitchhike on these highways, it is best to stand at the edge of town right before the speed limit picks up; even walking on the highways also helps as shoulders most of the way are pretty wide. Standing at stop lights outside of towns along these highways is also a great way to catch a ride, even if the speed limit is quite high. Urban and Suburban Short Distance

If you are hitchhiking within a large metropolitan area and trying to get to another part of the city, it is best to stay on the interstate on-ramps unless you want to do a lot of walking. Larger cities have interstates passing through them and often have one or more spur or circumferential interstates surrounding them. These spur and circumferential interstates are designated by a three-digit highway number with signs that look just like normal blue interstate signs. When hitchhiking on these roads, it is best to accept every ride, even if they are only going a mile, as each exit you get to is closer to your destination and you are unlikely to get stranded on any of these ramps due to the amount of traffic.

An alternate method to hitchhiking within urban areas is to walk up to cars stuck at red lights and ask them in person if you can have a ride in the direction they are going. This works best if they already have their window down, but usually people will roll their window down to talk to you if you stand in front of their car trying to get their attention.

Another way is to pay a small amount for public transportation to drop you off outside the city (check your map/GPS).

You may also wish to try asking for rides at smaller local gas stations, but you are unlikely to make as much progress doing this.

## **POLICE/LAWS**

### OVERVIEW



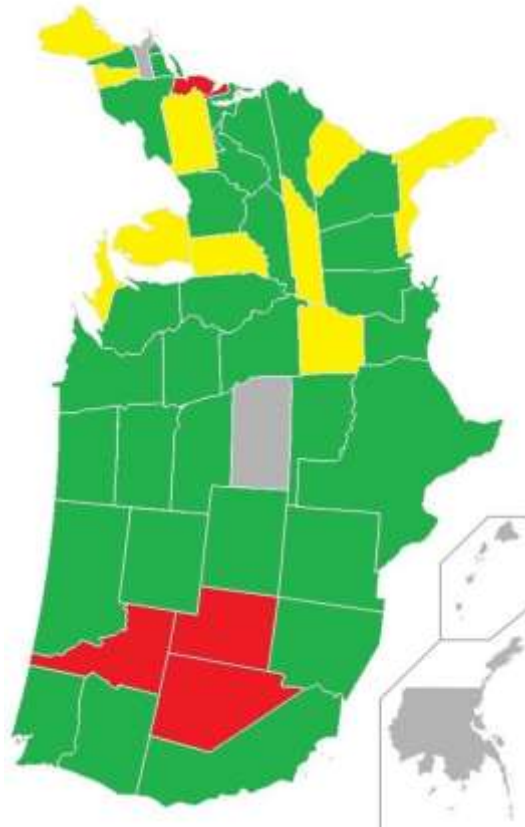
# Scott Notes

U.S. HITCH HIKING INFORMATION

**Volume:** 2015 **Issue:** 1123040

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The legal status of hitchhiking in the United States is a bit of a difficult topic; laws and their enforcement differ greatly from state to state as does the information available online and in general knowledge. Many people (including police officers) mistakenly believe hitchhiking is illegal anywhere in the US; sometimes you'll get away with holding a cardboard sign but not with holding out your thumb, and sometimes nobody will hassle you even if you stand or walk right on the interstate. The specific articles on states will give you more information on this topic.



## OVERVIEW OF HITCHHIKING LAWS BY STATE

- Green: Hitchhiking legal while on the shoulder of the road
- Yellow: Hitchhiking legal while off the traveled portion of the road, stay in the grass to be safe.
- Red: Hitchhiking is completely illegal.
- Gray: Specific laws, check the respective state article(s).



## NATIONWIDE

The only nationwide law (Code of Federal Regulations) that prohibits hitchhiking is 36 CFR 4.31 which states that hitchhiking is illegal on any property under jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior: National Park Service. This includes but is not limited to National Parks, National Scenic Byways, and National Recreation Areas. This law is often amended to allow hitchhiking at the discretion of each park. Check with the park's respective state article for Information State and Local



# Scott Notes

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Look to the map pictured above which indicates each state's laws. Most often, the laws state that the hitchhiker may not "solicit a ride" "on a roadway". The word roadway is usually defined in state statute books as "exclusive of a shoulder" or "the traveled portion of the highway", making these statutes easy to circumvent.

In most states it's illegal to hitch from the interstates (motorways) themselves (though enforcement of this rule varies), but you can typically stand at on-ramps (highway entries). That being said, understand that the ramps are still technically considered interstate property and are illegal for pedestrians to be on, although it is almost without exception permitted if you stand in front of the "no pedestrians" sign.

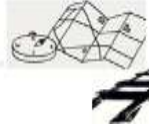
In some areas (such as certain towns or municipal areas) hitching is illegal everywhere, however, it is still allowed de facto. In most cases, hitchhiking is legal or tolerated. There are also many limited-access highways (i.e. with on-ramps and off-ramps) that are not part of the interstate system which prohibit pedestrians as well. California is notorious for prohibiting pedestrians on many of its controlled access highways.

Even in states where hitchhiking is illegal, the law is rarely enforced. Wyoming Highway Patrol reports that in 2010, they approached 524 hitchhikers but only cited eight of them (note that hitchhiking is no longer illegal in Wyoming as of 2013!)

If the police pass you walking or sitting by the side of the road without soliciting in any way, they may still stop to check IDs, but you are not required to identify yourself unless there is suspicion that you could have committed a crime. You may wish to hide your thumb or sign when a police car is approaching to avoid being hassled.

Often, particularly close to major cities, the police will ask you for photo ID, but as long as you have one with you (such as a passport) there shouldn't be a problem. Most of the time they will be polite when you come up clean, and too rarely they'll give you a lift out of their area to get rid of you.

Especially in smaller towns and in the countryside, the officer stopping you is likely to never have seen a passport before. If that's your form of ID, bear with the delay caused, help the poor guy out by point out which is your name and your birth date and enjoy the confusion and the hilarious misconceptions that arise.



Tourists who intend to cross into the USA by hitchhiking should note that the US immigration department will log that you have been hitchhiking, should they discover that you are. This log will be visible to any guard who subsequently checks your immigration status. If you decide to leave and enter the USA again, it may make your entry back into the USA more difficult if it is not a hitchhiker friendly state.

## IGNORANT POLICE OFFICERS

Being in a state which permits hitchhiking does not guarantee that the police will not harass you. Most police don't know the laws and will tell you it is illegal to hitchhike in that state. Thewindandrain argues with cops on a regular basis and refuses to stop hitchhiking where it is legal. He has been innocently arrested for this twice, but has remained confident and never been taken to jail even after being cuffed and in the car and continuing to stand up for his rights. They are usually bluffing right to the very end. If you know the law in that state, don't be afraid to tell the police they are wrong!

Frequently when confronted with your response, law enforcement officers will react unprofessionally and occasionally aggressively and even in a discriminatory way if you are not their race (it's occasional but as long as you are prepared and confident you would be fine). They may call you names or threaten to arrest you if they see you hitchhiking again and then leave the scene. This is usually a bluff. They may even cuff you then give you a ride out of their jurisdiction. Occasionally they may admit to their mistake and leave you alone. If you are uncomfortable and feel threatened by the officer, you may request to speak to his/her supervisor. Supervisors will show up to talk with you about the law openly and professionally.

## CAR LICENSE PLATE

Every state issues its own specific car plates. For example, a car from Alabama will have be specifically Car license tagged as such. In some States, the license plate will also show the county of residence. This can be helpful if you spot a car that might be going in the same direction as you. It might also be helpful to write down the license plate number in case of foul play.





## ALABAMA

### Law

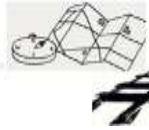
32-5A-216 Pedestrian soliciting rides or business or fishing. (a) No person shall stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride.

Section 32-1-1.1: DEFINITIONS (56) ROADWAY. That portion of a highway improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the berm or shoulder.

### Federal Districts

**Note:** All land owned by the National Park service prohibits hitchhiking under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited *except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent.*

**Little River Canyon National Preserve:** 4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited



## ALASKA

Hitchhiking in **Alaska** in winter is very dangerous as there are not many major cities, nor many passing vehicles during the winter. For these reasons, most vehicles that do pass will most likely stop for hitchhikers, but trying to travel to precise locations and/or long distances is not recommended. On the other hand, Alaska in winters can be spectacular as you have the higher chance to see 'Aurora borealis'.

In summer it is great though. You can get from Fairbanks to Prudhoe bay in 2 days on the Dalton Highway . Be careful with hungry grizzly, black and polar bears though.

There are few roads in Alaska that cover any real distance that are not highways. Fortunately, most of the time, the highways are much more friendly than the interstates of the Lower 48. The epic and beautiful scenery calls for a huge number of turnoffs, giving the hitchhiker ample opportunity to walk down the road a bit and still have a decent spot. Many drivers are willing to stop, even from full speed, if they have a place to pull over, and they often do. Some would even slow down as just as they see you and stop where are you standing or walking.

By far the busiest stretch of road in Alaska is the Glenn Highway from Anchorage north to Wasilla and Palmer (in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley). It is illegal for pedestrians to be on the highway itself, so normal freeway rules apply here. (But I have never waited more than fifteen or twenty minutes for a ride, even while standing on a full speed stretch of that road).

The longest rides you can get are from hilltop cafe(couple of miles north of fair banks ) to the

The farther one travels from Anchorage, the less traffic there is, particularly during winter. However, the Kenai Peninsula and the Parks Highway (up through Denali, to Fairbanks) are populated roadways all year long. The good thing about this is that you're likely to find a ride that is going where you are, or maybe even farther. That being said, one trip from Wasilla to Kenai (less than three hundred miles) took me a day and a half and ten rides.

The Alaska Highway from Dawson Creek in Canada runs to Delta Junction in Alaska, and then continues on to Fairbanks as the Richardson Highway. It took us a while to travel from Delta Junction and then later Tok Junction to the Canadian border, and locals seem more keen to give lifts than tourists (as a rule of thumb the more expensive the RV the worse reception you get) so you may not get very far at one go. That said, people will eventually stop and can be incredibly friendly and helpful to the point of giving you food and beds when they do.

In summer, it's not such a big deal to be caught out at some late hour. You may not even realize that it's midnight! Twenty hours of daylight is the norm, and at 'night' it still does not get dark enough even



to see the stars. However, be particularly careful during the colder months, because getting stuck at the Seward Y at 10 p.m. can be very scary. Drivers are usually careful during the winter and may not drive so much at night, but it is likely that the first car that passes will stop for you.

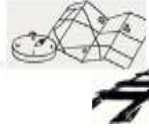
Whatever the weather, always have an extra layer or two with you. The weather here can and will change violently in a matter of minutes, and the temperature can drop very, very quickly.

## Law

### 13 AAC 02.180. Pedestrians soliciting rides or business

No person may solicit a ride in a manner which distracts a driver's attention, nor may a pedestrian upon a highway solicit employment, business, or contributions from the occupant of a vehicle.

It appears that hitchhiking may be illegal in some contexts if the hitcher is being obnoxious and drawing unreasonable attention to themselves (a good way to get a ride elsewhere.)



## ARIZONA

**Arizona** is a geologically diverse state of mountains, canyons, river valleys and mesas. As most interstate highways span desert regions, road travelers sometimes wrongly assume the whole state is one vast, arid wasteland. Overall, Arizona has a ton of wide open land, amazing vistas and fairly friendly people. To see the best of Arizona, though, you will need to travel the smaller, scenic highways.

About 50% of the state is covered with Indian reservation and the other 50% covered in senior citizens.

### Law

It is legal to hitchhike in Arizona while off the travelled portion of a roadway. Stay on the berm of the highway, and you should be fine.

28-796. Pedestrian on roadways C. A person shall not stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride from the driver of a vehicle.

22. "Roadway" means that portion of a highway that is improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the berm or shoulder.

In city areas (Phoenix, Tucson, Tempe) and some regions patrolled by the Sheriff's office (most small towns) you may be hassled. Always have identification at the ready and be respectful if you expect to keep moving.

### 1. Federal Districts



**Note:** All land regulated by the National Park service prohibits hitchhiking under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited *except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent.*

- Grand Canyon National Park

4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.

Arizona has not made public the compendiums for any other NP administrative land, so we might assume it is prohibited on all of them.



## ARKANSAS

Hitchhiking in **Arkansas** isn't very difficult at all, especially in the mountainous regions. Since it's the South, people tend to be kinder than most, but the few people who are jerks are usually worse than most other places. But the combination of that general kindness and the laid back, outdoorsy atmosphere that surrounds the Ozarks makes for a place that a lot of extremely loving people live in.

Unless you're broke and need to spange, avoid the big cities. There isn't much there to experience and not too many travelers to share with.

When you find a good place to hitchhike, you will typically be picked up quickly. The main problem is that very few shoulders are built on the roads outside of major population centers, so it can be difficult for someone to pull over for you. The situation has been gradually improving the last couple years, but most of the two lane highways still lack sufficient shoulder room for hitchhiking.

Despite this, Arkansas contains some incredibly wild and scenic places. This has earned it the title of "The Natural State." Some of the greatest outdoor opportunities between the Rocky Mountains and the Appalachians exist here.

### Recreation

If you have the resources to have food, then a very cool place to travel through are the towns along the Buffalo River. There is a trail called the Buffalo River Trail which runs parallel to the river. It's a pretty trail, but like the rest of the South there are a lot of ticks. Be sure to print out a trail guide if you do decide to hike it because the trail crosses some privately owned land and private roads and the signs about exactly where to go aren't too clear. The trail isn't too high intensity, and it connects all these small towns along the river which make their living off of river activities. Ponca is a super cool town like this.

If you are passing through the Boston Mountains along highway 16, ask the locals about a place called the "Glory Hole Falls" It is quite a spectacular site and is only a mile hike off of the main highway.

Petite Jean State Park is also a must-see, it is near I-40 in the vicinity of Morrilton. There are several trails with some terrific natural wonders that rank among the best to see in the state.

The Talimena Skyway is arguably the most scenic road in the country between the Rockies and the



Appalachians. Be prepared to not experience much traffic though, User:Thewindandrain was stuck walking on this road for almost 24 hours and ended up dehydrated and drinking his own urine before someone finally picked him up.

There are a few major music festivals that take place in the Ozark area over summer.

## Roads

- Shoulders

Shoulders are rarely built at the edge of towns, making it difficult for people to pull over. The situation is improving in recent years in larger towns such as Fayetteville and Hot Springs but on most two lane roads, finding places for people to pull over is difficult.

- Pedestrian Rights

All interstates prohibit pedestrians. Virtually all other roads allow pedestrians.

- Interchanges

Split-traffic interchanges are few and far between here when crossing non controlled access roads. Most if not all interchanges between two four lane roads do not require drivers to slow down, making it difficult for them to pick you up.

## Law

27-51-1205. Soliciting rides. No person shall stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride from the driver of any private vehicle.

27-49-212. Roadways. (b) "Roadway" means that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel.

Because the definition does not explicitly mention the shoulder, it is probably best to hitch from the grass and not on the shoulder of the road.

Corruption is not unheard of among law enforcement in Arkansas. Mena county is the most racist place in the modern United States; it is rumored among locals that the murder of several african americans in 2001 was committed by members of the Sheriff's office of Mena County. Madison County is famous for



# Scott Notes

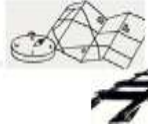
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a marijuana grow operation owned by it's sheriff. The sheriff died under suspicious circumstances; it was suspected to be an assassination. More information about the subject can be found in the book "When Money Grew On Trees."

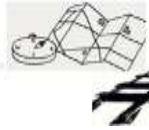




## Federal Districts

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- Buffalo River National Park 4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.



## CALIFORNIA

**California** is a state in the United States of America. Hitchhiking here is easier than in a lot of other states of the US. You usually won't be harassed by cops. The Central Valley is a concentrated version of the dixie-area "Bible-Belt", so getting around from Bakersfield to, say, Sacramento (and anywhere in between) is a real pain. The major urban centers are notoriously difficult to hitch out of too. It's usually better to take public transportation as reasonably far as possible, and then hitch from there. The Sierra Nevada (especially highway 395) and the Coast are a breeze for hitchhiking.

### Major Highways

I-5 and CA-99 both run up and down the middle of California in the Central Valley, from Los Angeles up through Sacramento, Redding, and into Oregon. I-5 is a long-distance freeway; stick to truck stops. CA-99 is a more urban route, connecting towns and cities.

(anywhere south of Modesto on CA-99 is a pain to hitch). - J-rod User: Jaredjestes22)

Route 1 goes up and down the Coast, with beautiful scenery, but not the easiest to hitch on for the most part.

North of Sonoma is beautiful...that is to say, if you have time to spare at all, do take the 1!

Hitchhiking along the 1 north of San Francisco is not easy as there is little traffic, no on-ramps, no service stations, and very few stop lights. If you're lucky, you might find a construction site where all traffic has to stop and wait for five or ten minutes.

US-101 from San Francisco up through Marin (San Rafael), Sonoma (Santa Rosa), Mendocino (Mendocino) and Humboldt (Arcata, Eureka) Counties is arguably the easiest hitching in the US. *Ollie Monaghan* I would like to reiterate hitching on the 101, particularly for the stunning scenery, redwood groves laced in white mist rolling down from the mountains on side with the crash of the Pacific tide on the other ... also the route has a history of being used for hitch-hiking, was a very common route taken in the 50s, 60s & 70s up and down the west coast, most of these people now have cars and will pick you up !

### Recommended places

The following places are recommended: Big Sur and Crescent City (CA-1 & US-101), have



beautiful shores/beaches. Yosemite (Highway 120), Sequoia National Park, the Redwoods and the Los Padres Forest are a must. The Haight-Ashbury (or just "the Haight") district in San Francisco the famous epicenter of much of the 1960s' drug and music culture is long gone and beat like a drum, but you might meet a few interesting people there. Arcata is mad cool as well.

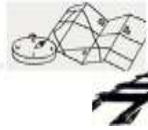
## Roads

- Shoulders

Broad shoulders are common along many roadsides, giving people plenty of room to pull over for you. However, it is not uncommon to encounter places where shoulders have not been built or are prohibitively narrow.

- Pedestrian Rights

All interstates and many major many four lane and even several two lane highways in California prohibit pedestrians.



- Interchanges

Split-traffic interchanges are all too common in California. Many interchanges also do not require drivers to slow down, which can lead to longer waiting times.

## Laws

While hitchhiking is traditionally considered legal in California and the cops will rarely harass you, anecdotal evidence has been reported of people being threatened under California Vehicle Code Section 22520.5 which states:

(a) No person shall *solicit*, display, sell, offer for sale, or otherwise vend or attempt to vend any merchandise or *service* while being wholly or partly within any of the following:

(1) The right-of-way of any freeway, including any on ramp, off ramp, or roadway shoulder which lies within the right-of-way of the freeway.

(2) Any roadway or adjacent shoulder within 500 feet of a freeway off ramp or on ramp.

(3) Any sidewalk within 500 feet of a freeway off ramp or on ramp, when vending or attempting to vend to vehicular traffic.

(b) Subdivision (a) does not apply to a roadside rest area or vista point located within a freeway right-of-way which is subject to Section 22520.6, to a tow truck or service vehicle rendering assistance to a disabled vehicle, or to a person issued a permit to vend upon the freeway pursuant to Section 670 of the Streets and Highways Code.

(c) A violation of this section is an infraction. A second or subsequent conviction of a violation of this section is a misdemeanor.

This law is generally only used against prostitution, however soliciting a ride is considered soliciting a service, so if the cops attempt to tell you it is illegal to hitchhike in California it is best to not argue with them.



The following law is enforced more often:

21957. No person shall stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride from the driver of any vehicle.

Definitions: 530. A "roadway" is that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel.

As with other states where the roadway definition does not mention a shoulder, it might be wise to hitch from outside of the paved portion of the road.

## Federal Districts

**Note:** All land regulated by the National Park service prohibits hitchhiking under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited *except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent.*

- Yosemite National Park

Hitchhiking is permitted in the following areas under the terms and conditions noted:  
all areas of the park when the person is off the roadway surface and when public safety and traffic flow are not adversely affected  
when vehicles may safely pull off of the main traffic lane  
when not under the influence of alcohol or intoxicating drugs  
when hitchhiking behavior is safe and not a nuisance  
except in residential areas where signs exist establishing the area as residential areas only and discouraging public traffic

- Joshua Tree National Park

Hitchhiking is only permitted under exigent conditions where the health and safety of the person hitchhiking is in jeopardy.

- Mojave National Preserve

4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.



- Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.

- Death Valley National Park

Hitchhiking, or the soliciting of transportation, is allowed anywhere in the park as long as the person is off the paved roadway on the shoulder, and visitor safety and traffic flow are not adversely affected.

- Sequoia and King's Canyon National Parks

Hitchhiking is permitted when not standing in the roadway, and visitor safety and traffic flow must not be adversely affected.

- Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Hitchhiking is permitted in the following areas: Marin County - Marin Headlands

- Point Reyes National Seashore

Hitchhiking is allowed anywhere in the park as long as the person does not stand in a roadway and the hitchhiking/solicitation does not adversely affect visitor safety or the normal flow of traffic.

- Lassen Volcanic National Park

4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.

- Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

Hitchhiking is explicitly prohibited at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

- Redwood National Park

4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.



## Various

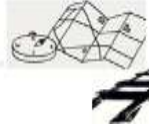
In SoCal, one just has to transit as far from the city as possible before attempting to hitch. Northbound, take the commuter bus from downtown LA Union Station to Valencia and hitch I-5 from there. Eastbound, Metrolink (~\$13 from Union Station) to the truck stops along Fontana, Rialto, San Bernadino, etc. Hitching will get easier once you hit the desert in Indio, home to better truck stops, and a departure point for Niland/Slab City. Ontario is known for "lot lizards" and other urban truck-stop crime. It takes a long time, but one can transit through Los Angeles to Orange and San Diego Counties, all the way down to Mexico. See also Nick Cophee's excellent thread on "hitching in SoCal" on Squat the Planet.

Northern California: If hitching north or east out of the Bay, the University Ave onramp in Berkeley is GOLD. The Octavia Ave onramp for the 101 south and 80 east seems to be the best in SF. In Sacramento, the 16th St onramp is alright for commuting to the Bay (just stand on the left side of the road, not by the onramp post, and hold your sign high), but hitching north or south will take a long long while to happen--if you can get rides from friends in the area, go to Lodi if heading further south, the Dunnigan truck stop if northbound, but otherwise consider Megabus, Union Pacific, or hitching from the Bay. If you're in the Shasta area, check out the regional bus system--you're more likely to get a quick ride from hippie-friendly towns like Mt Shasta and Weed than more conservative places such as Dunsmuir.

Vallejo seems pretty ghetto, though the rest stop in Vallejo is really good. It's full of Urban Sprawl.

Humboldt county is real good. They have a Hoopa Indian Reservation up there that is pretty good. They'll stop if you're walking on the side because they think you're one of them, and then once they stop they feel bad and give you a ride anyway. Lord Ellis peak took me about half an hour to get a ride to Redding.

Route 101, North from San Francisco and Route 1 South from the bay, towards Santa Cruz, are great roads to hitch, arguably the easiest hitchhiking in the United States. Incredibly beautiful scenery too. From the bay, hitching can be difficult but not impossible. You can alternately take public transit to the Diridon station in San Jose. There is a shuttle for \$5.00 to Downtown Santa Cruz. Make sure to hitch out of Santa Cruz instead of Capitola...or alternately, there is a bus for \$3.00 from Santa Cruz to Monterrey. In Monterrey, the bus 24 for another \$2.00 will take you to Barnyard shopping village in Carmel. The red lights there are an excellent place to catch

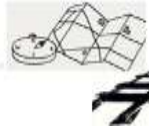


rides as they are the last lights before the road turns into big sur area. Alot of drivers are headed all the way to L.A. with many cars full of young people, travelers, surfers. It took me literally 5 minutes to get a ride there, and i'm a 24 year old dude with long messy hair. Once in Big Sur hitchhiking is ridiculously easy and it is also an excellent place to camp for free on oceanside bluffs(as long as you are respectful).

Also, if you are heading down (or up) the coast, try and get to Mendocino. It's the county in Cali that produces the most marijuana, and there is this awesome communal farm there. Half the rides you get will even offer you a toké or two! Golden Gate Transit will get you up to Santa Rosa from the Bay Area, which is halfway there.

Highway 20, in between Yuba City (off Hwy 99) and Williams (off I-5) in Northern California can be difficult. It has been reported to take as long as 6 hours for someone to catch a ride. There are not many places for people to pull over, and Yuba City is a huge strip mall town that people just blast through on a multi lane road. If hitching from Yuba City, wait at the intersection of Hwys 20 & 99. The 99 commuter bus runs between Yuba City and Sacramento, too. On the other hand, User:Thewindandrain has had nothing but easy experiences hitching around Yuba City and Williams.





## COLORADO

### Budget Transportation

- The traveler passing through Denver will be wise to note the presence of several Mexican bus companies. More affordable, more comfortable, more reliable, and with notably nicer co-passengers than the Dirty Dog (greyhound), these companies can take you to Kansas City, New Mexico, Texas, Arizona, Southern California, and of course, Mexico. If you've got a few bucks and you don't feel like thumbing your way out of suburban sprawl, head over the area between Welton and Champa between 19th and 22nd streets. Autobuses Los Paisanos, Los Limosines, Autobuses Americanos and others can get you to Mexico for 50-60 dollars.

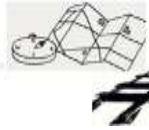
### Free Transportation

- There is a bus that runs between Fort Collins and Loveland with a policy which allows you to ride free if you claim to be 17 or younger.
- There is a free bus that runs between Gunnison and Crested Butte. Ask the locals for detailed schedules.
- SummitStage runs free anywhere in Summit County including Silverthorne, Dillon, Frisco, Breckenridge, and Keystone.
- Denver has a free bus that runs along 16th street between union station and the capitol.
- Steamboat Springs has a free bus running across town

### Difficult Routes

While Colorado is generally an easy state to hitch, doing these routes may prove more difficult than others.

- Difficult: CO133 Carbondale to Hotchkiss
- Difficult: CO92 Delta to Blue Mesa Reservoir



- Difficult: CO115 Colorado Springs to Penrose
- Difficult to Moderate: Fort Collins or Loveland to Greeley
- Difficult to Moderate: US287 Lamar to Limon

## Law

42-4-805. Pedestrians walking or traveling in a wheelchair on highways.

(2) No person shall stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride from the driver of any private vehicle. For the purpose of subsection (2) "roadway" means that portion of the road normally used by moving motor vehicle traffic.

(5) Any town or city may, by ordinance, regulate the use by pedestrians of streets and highways under its jurisdiction to the extent authorized under subsection (6) of this section and sections 42-4-110 and 42-4-111, but no ordinance regulating such use of streets and highways in a manner differing from this section shall be effective until official signs or devices giving notice thereof have been placed as required by section 42-4-111 (2).

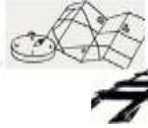
(6) No person shall solicit a ride on any highway included in the interstate system, as defined in section 43-2-101 (2), C.R.S., except at an entrance to or exit from such highway or at places specifically designated by the department of transportation; or, in an emergency affecting a vehicle or its operation, a driver or passenger of a disabled vehicle may solicit a ride on any highway.

(7) Pedestrians shall only be picked up where there is adequate road space for vehicles to pull off and not endanger and impede the flow of traffic.

Basically, hitch all you want in Colorado from off the traveled portion of the road and not on the interstate and you will be fine. There are some municipalities in Colorado that prohibit hitchhiking, but they are required to post official notices.

## Federal Districts

**Note:** All land regulated by the National Park service prohibits hitchhiking under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited



# Scott Notes

U.S. HITCH HIKE INFORMATION

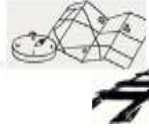
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*except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent.*

- Rocky Mountain National Park

Hitchhiking in the park is allowed and restricted to the road shoulder.



## CONNECTICUT

Hitchhiking along I-95 is not difficult as Connecticut maintains a very nice system of rest stops and service plazas across the state; it's also possible to exit-hop. Walk onto one and put your thumb out and you shouldn't have to wait long for a ride. In addition, several New York-Boston bus lines (Chinatown to Chinatown, 15 US\$) make stops at the Fairfield service plaza (exit 21), and it is possible to talk your way on for free or a reduced price if you're a good negotiator.

Watch out for mosquitos and black flies in the north east, the mosquitos can be ravenous.

People are very friendly in Connecticut for the most part.

### Law

Sec. 53-181. Soliciting rides in motor vehicles. Any person who, while on or within the limits of the traveled portion of any public highway, solicits a ride in a motor vehicle, other than a public service motor bus or taxicab, except in case of accident or emergency, shall be deemed to have committed an infraction and be fined thirty-five dollars, except that any person may, while on or within the shoulder portion of any public highway, except a limited access highway, solicit such a ride.



## DELAWARE

### Law

DEL CODE § 4147 : Delaware Code - Section 4147: PEDESTRIANS SOLICITING RIDES OR BUSINESS (c)  
No person shall stand in a highway for the purpose of soliciting a ride.

(22) "Highway" means the entire width between boundary lines of every way or place of whatever nature open to the use of the public as a matter of right for purposes of vehicular travel, but does not include a road or driveway upon grounds owned by private persons, colleges, universities or other institutions.

Similar to the Nevada state law, this basically makes hitchhiking illegal due to the definition of highway meaning the entire property of a right of way, hitchhiking along a shoulder or berm is still illegal



## FLORIDA

Hitching on the interstate is possible, but don't expect long rides. Florida police won't bother you if you stay on the on-ramps of the interstate. There is a chain of local transit buses that will get you all the way down the Florida Keys for roughly \$5.30 from the Florida City Wal-Mart.

A good way to get north is to take a bus from West Palm Beach to South Bay, Florida, where US 27 (a main thoroughfare other than the turnpike and 95) is a local highway where there is a lot of traffic.

Hitchhikers are rare in **Florida**, but it's still possible to get rides. It's best to stick to the interstates; you won't have much luck on US highways and state roads because so much of Florida is suburban, and most people on these roads aren't going far.

If you want something fun to do outdoors, going to a spring can be fun. They're all over the state, very cheap, and usually not very crowded. They can sometimes be off the beaten path, though.

Hitchhiking down the Florida Keys is easy and you can always use the local buses to get all the way down to Key West. Hitching back up north proves more difficult. Good time to go is when Fantasy Fest is happening, a week-long street party in October, I found this celebration to be better than Mardi Gras!  
-samson



## Law

316.130 Pedestrians; traffic regulations.— (5) No person shall stand in the portion of a roadway paved for vehicular traffic for the purpose of soliciting a ride, employment, or business from the occupant of any vehicle. (18) No pedestrian shall walk upon a limited access facility or a ramp connecting a limited access facility to any other street or highway

### Definitions

(19) LIMITED ACCESS FACILITY.—A street or highway especially designed for through traffic and over, from, or to which owners or occupants of abutting land or other persons have no right or easement, or only a limited right or easement, of access, light, air, or view by reason of the fact that their property abuts upon such limited access facility or for any other reason. Such highways or streets may be parkways from which trucks, buses, and other commercial vehicles are excluded; or they may be freeways open to use by all customary forms of street and highway traffic.

The way this is worded makes hitchhiking laws completely open to interpretation. If an officer tells you not to hitchhike where you are hitchhiking it is probably best to move on.

## 2. Local Laws

In Monroe County (which comprises Key Largo, Marathon and Key West and everywhere in between) hitchhiking is illegal and the Monroe County Sheriff are pretty harsh on this.

The Monroe County law states:

It shall be unlawful for any person to stand or position himself upon any county, state or federal street, highway or road right-of-way lying within the unincorporated areas of the county, and hitchhike, solicit or attempt to solicit a ride from the driver of any vehicle.

## 3. Federal Districts

**Note:** All land owned by the National Park service prohibits hitchhiking under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited *except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent.*

- Gulf Islands National Seashore 4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is



prohibited.

- Everglades National Park 4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.
- Big Cypress National Preserve 4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.





## GEORGIA

Hitchhiking in **Georgia** isn't very common, however either because of the novelty or because people are genuinely nice, getting a ride doesn't take very long. Often, the first car you thumb will stop. Even still, it can take a while to get somewhere because most drivers aren't going very long distances. Often just to the next town, unless you are on the interstate. Just be aware that people will use the advantage of having you trapped in their car to "evangelize" to you.

You may have a hard time getting out of southern Georgia. It is recommended that you ride through this area. Muninn took two days to get a ride from Columbus to Atlanta thumbing on multiple roads, including I-185 itself.

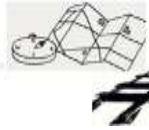
Beware of very high (+100F) temperatures in the summer and intermittent rain. Carry plenty of water.

### Law

TITLE 40 - MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC CHAPTER 6 - UNIFORM RULES OF THE ROAD ARTICLE 5 - RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF PEDESTRIANS § 40-6-97 - Pedestrians soliciting rides or business (a) No person shall stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride.

According to Georgia Department of Transportation's Key Definitions Roadway means: That portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the berm or shoulder. In the event a highway includes two or more separate roadways, the term 'roadway' shall refer to any such roadway separately, but not to all such roadways collectively.

Hitchhiking anywhere on the interstate is still illegal for safety reasons, although the law is seldom enforced.



## IDAHO

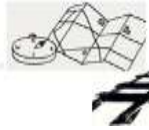
The people of the state of **Idaho** are extremely friendly and most have no problem picking up hitchhikers. It is one of the most conservative states in the US however and in most areas outside of the capital Boise, many people will not pick up anyone who looks liberal, like a hippie or a punk. Zenit however has only had good experiences (in the Northern part), even hitchhiking in rural areas with a head full of dreadlocks. The same rules apply here as anywhere, be nice and courteous no matter how absurd the drivers opinions might be. Be aware that in the North, there is a number of Aryan Nation camps; while they are mostly tucked away in the woods you might still run into their members.

### Law

#### 49-709 PEDESTRIANS SOLICITING RIDES OR BUSINESS.

(1) No person shall stand on a highway for the purpose of soliciting a ride.

(5) "Highways" mean roads, streets, alleys and bridges laid out or established for the public or dedicated or abandoned to the public. Highways shall include necessary culverts, sluices, drains, ditches, waterways, embankments, retaining walls, bridges, tunnels, grade separation structures, roadside improvements, adjacent lands or interests lawfully acquired, pedestrian facilities, and any other structures, works or fixtures incidental to the preservation or improvement of the highways. Roads laid out and recorded as highways, by order of a board of commissioners, and all roads used as such for a period of five (5) years, provided they shall have been worked and kept up at the expense of the public, or located and recorded by order of a board of commissioners, are highways.



Basically, hitchhiking is illegal based on the definition of highway. You CANNOT solicit rides from the shoulder or berm. It would be very hard to defend your position against an officer who claims you are breaking the law by soliciting a ride within the boundary lines of any road property, therefore avoid cops in this state at all costs! The cops in the southern two thirds of the state can be tricky to avoid. The cops in the northern third of the state (highway 12 and all points north) seem not to mind hitchhikers as much. Zenit was passed by a state trooper near Moscow, ID, without being hassled at all, while the Orofino city police (Highway 12) politely prohibited him from hitchhiking.

A loophole to this law might be the word *stand*. If you walk and hitchhike at the same time, you might be fine - but any cop is gonna hate your smart ass and the reaction of a judge is unpredictable as well.

## 4. Federal Districts

**Note:** All land regulated by the National Park service prohibits hitchhiking under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited *except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent*.

- Yellowstone National Park

36 CFR Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation shall be permitted within Yellowstone National Park except:

within two tenths of a mile of an entrance station.

within 200 feet of a school, concession business or park service office building or visitor center.

in a residential area where signs exist establishing the area as residential areas only and discouraging public traffic.

while holding or having a sign which is larger than two feet by two feet in size.

the hitchhiker must stay off the paved surface of the roadway, though a hitchhiker may stand on pavement if clearly in a paved pullout.

where vehicles may not safely pull off of the main traffic lane

during the hours of darkness unless the hitchhiker is wearing bright clothing.

while under the influence of alcohol or intoxicating drugs.



when hitchhiking behavior is deemed unsafe or a nuisance by Park Staff.

- Craters of the Moon National Preserve

4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.



## ILLINOIS

**Illinois** is a state in the Midwestern United States, bordered by Wisconsin to the north, Lake Michigan (one of the Great Lakes) to the northeast, Indiana to the east, the westernmost portion of Kentucky to the south, and Iowa and Missouri to the west.

By far the largest and most interesting city in Illinois is Chicago, located on the shore of Lake Michigan in the northeast corner of the state. With a population of over 9,500,000 (metropolitan area), it is the third-largest city in the United States. Make use of the truck stop areas and on ramps. Hitching on the interstate in Illinois ESPECIALLY on turnpikes is illegal. Look also for US routes, the police might leave you alone.

Law

(625 ILCS 5/11-1006) (from Ch. 95 1/2, 11)

Sec. 11-1006. Pedestrians soliciting rides or business.

No person shall stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride from the driver of any vehicle.

(625 ILCS 5/1-179) (from Ch. 95 1/2, 1) Title and Definitions

Sec. 1-179. Roadway.

That portion of a highway improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the berm or shoulder.

As usual if you stay on the shoulder or berm you are legally not in violation of this code.



## INDIANA

**Indiana** is a state in the United States of America. Speaking from a very limited experience hitching in Indiana, people are generally really friendly and will give rides easily. Expect to talk about religion. There are many truck stops and various off interstate areas where you can get rides or simply hitch on the interstate or on ramp. Indiana is one of THE best states to get rides!

### Law

IC 9-21-17-16 Solicitation of rides; restrictions; emergency Sec. 16. A person may not stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride from a person who drives a vehicle unless the person soliciting a ride is faced with an emergency on the roadway, in which case the person may secure a ride to obtain assistance.

IC 9-13-2-157 "Roadway" Sec. 157. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), "roadway" means that part of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel. (b) As used in IC 9-21-12-13, "roadway" means the part of a highway that is improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel. The term does not include the sidewalk, berm, or shoulder, even if the sidewalk, berm, or shoulder is used by persons riding bicycles or other human powered vehicles.

**NOTE** Subsection (b) only applies to a law regarding school buses stopping. This means that the definition of roadway as used in the hitchhiking law could technically be interpreted as *including* the shoulder. It is therefore recommended that you stay *off* the shoulder and on the grass when hitchhiking in Indiana.



## IOWA

Iowa is a state in the midwestern United States. It is a rather flat state, but if you like corn, you're in the right place. Many people will drive past you, but also there is plenty of awesome folks that will find you.

### Law

Iowa's state law is very friendly towards hitchhikers. The state of Iowa appears to be aware of police constantly abusing the uniform vehicle code's wording of "roadway" to intimidate hitchhikers into thinking hitchhiking is illegal. The law now expressly notes that it is completely legal to hitchhike off the traveled portion of a road:

321.331 Pedestrians soliciting rides.

1. No person shall stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride from the driver of any private vehicle.
2. Nothing in this section or this chapter shall be construed so as to prevent any pedestrian from standing on that portion of the highway or roadway, not ordinarily used for vehicular traffic, for the purpose of soliciting a ride from the driver of any vehicle.

This means that if you stay on the shoulder, you'll be fine. Police will still occasionally stop you to check your ID, keep in mind that you do not have to show ID if you're not in breach of any laws (but better be sure about it because insisting on your rights, while a good thing, will likely piss the cop off).

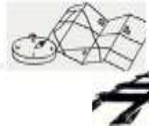
### General

**Iowa** has great rest stops, with coffee machines and free wireless internet.

The main highways traversing Iowa are: (east to west)

- Interstate 80, connecting Davenport, Iowa City, Des Moines, and Council Bluffs
- U.S. 30, passing through Cedar Rapids and Ames
- U.S. 20, passing through Waterloo and Sioux City

(east to west). Avoid stopping in Rockwell City, there's a prison there.



# Scott Notes

U.S. HITCH HIKING INFORMATION

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- Interstate 35, passing through Ames and Des Moines, a great place along this Interstate is the Kum and Go in Story City. It's just outside all the larger towns and everyone stops here from the Interstate. You should be able to catch a lift here and get everywhere from Kansas City to Minneapolis.
- U.S. 218/Interstate 380, passing through Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, and Iowa City

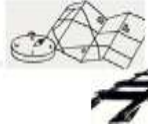
An interesting way to get across Iowa is to *actually get caught* by the county's local sheriff department. I have heard stories from hitchhikers and sheriffs alike who will pick up a hitchhiker and drop them off at the county border in the direction that they are heading. Then the next sheriff will pick them up and drive them off. This is really useful in small counties (which are numerous in Iowa) without much traffic to bounce across the state without much work. I would avoid trying this in counties with larger cities as the sheriff department will have bigger problems that will be more important than a hitchhiker that they will have to attend to. Always give them your story as they love to trade stories about this stuff when they get back to the station for the night or home to their families.

It's legal to walk on the highway in Iowa. And you can deposit cans in Iowa, I recommend stopping at a Fareway to do so as they're usually the most lenient on their redemption policy. They also have the cheapest food at their grocery store, and great produce. The people in Iowa are usually really friendly, and the older folk are surprisingly liberal. The age group that I would try to avoid the most is the early thirties to late forties as they're usually the least accepting and usually are more hostile towards those different than themselves.

In fact, go to either of the main grocery stores in basically every town, Hy-Vee and Fareway, and talk to the kids working there. You should be able to learn a lot about the town, best places to hitch a ride, where you can either find a couch or sleep. These stores also don't use trash compactors so you should have luck dumpstering, especially after 10PM. There is a lot of forests in Iowa where you can sleep. NEVER sleep in a ditch as stuff will probably get dumped there, sometimes drug paraphernalia. It may be tempting to sleep in a corn field during the summer but it is highly unrecommended. There are animals and spiders that live in there and you don't know if the farmer will be working in the field at night at all.

The winter gets VERY cold. Standing out on a road any longer than an hour can be dangerous without the right clothing. You may be able to use the weather to gain pity, or say your car broke down and you need a lift if you feel comfortable lying.



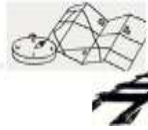


# Scott Notes

U.S. HITCH HIKING INFORMATION

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## KANSAS

### Law

As of 2010 the "Standard Traffic Ordinances for Kansas Cities" prepared and published in book form by the Kansas League of Municipalities declares *hitchhiking illegal* in all cities which adopt it's code. Not all cities upload their code to municode.com and not all municipal courts and police offices are willing to assist in makign the information public over the phone, but Johnson county as well as the cities of Manhattan, Topeka, Lawrence, Emporia, El Dorado, Salina, Fort Scott, Leavenworth and Hutchinson have adopted the code. To be safe, try to hitchhike outside of the city limits of major towns in the state of Kansas. The exact wording of KS STO 69(a) is as follows:

Sec. 69. Pedestrians Soliciting Rides or Business.

(a) No person shall stand upon or along a street or highway for the purpose of soliciting a ride.

This overrides the K.S.A. statute that allows you to hitchhike on the shoulder or berm which claims that "no person shall stand on a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride..." Basically the new KS STO code as of 2010 makes it illegal to hitchhike anywhere near a road *even if you are not on the paved portion designed for the ordinary flow of traffic*. Wichita has not adopted the KS STO 69(a) statute but has adopted the following statute instead:

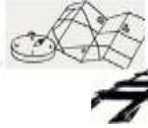
Sec. 11.44.050. - Soliciting rides, business or contributions prohibited—Exceptions.

(a)No person shall stand in *or in proximity to* a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride from the driver or occupant of any vehicle.

As of March 2012, Wyandotte County Unified Government is the only municipal body of any sizeable population in the state of Kansas that has been confirmed to not have adopted the KS STO or a similar statute prohibiting hitchhiking anywhere near a road. This means that it *should be legal* to hitchhike in Wyandotte County. However when outside the limits of a city/municipal body and off the interstate and paved portion of any road or on the shoulder of said road, it is never illegal to hitchhike in the state of Kansas. Do not let the police bully you and try to tell you otherwise.

### Getting Through

There is a cluster of truck stops along the road to Colorado, however it is advisable to catch a ride going all thorough the State until *Limon* in Colorado. In Kansas itself, there are two big rest-truck stops which



are actual point of interest. Those consists of before Lawrence on I70 and before Topeka also on I70

If you are at the cluster of truck stops in KCMO you have about 2 options. First is take bus rides through the city to Lawrence which is an hour west of KC now this is not the easiest task I wouldn't recommend this option but it can be done. First go hitch to KC so you can get a bus. These truck stops are like 10 minutes from where you can get a bus from give or take but make sure the people who bring you bring you to an exit close enough where the buses run regularly (waffle house near these truckstops is a good place to catch a ride possibly talk to waitresses oh and ask about the waffle house). -> *Confused* '



## KENTUCKY

The US state of **Kentucky** is a fairly easy state to hitchhike through and out of. Most cities in Kentucky only hit major freeways in a few spots, which makes high-traffic on-ramps easy to find. The drivers in the area are generally nice, even if they don't pick you up they will acknowledge you. Expect to wait 1 to 4 hours.

Sticking to smaller highways in Kentucky will net a clean cut looking young man or woman 2-3 rides an hour, though most aren't going far.

Law

189.570 Pedestrians (19) No person shall stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride.

189.010 As used in this chapter: (10) Roadway means that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the shoulder or berm.

As usual, stay on the shoulder and you aren't breaking the law.

### 5. Federal Districts

**Note:** All land owned by the National Park service prohibits hitchhiking under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited *except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent.*

- Big South Fork National Recreation Area 4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.
- Cumberland Gap National Historical Park 4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.

## LOUISIANA

Getting rides here is about average.

Louisiana is awesome. Fun place. Obviously, New Orleans.



People throw huge wads around here- they make a lot of money but they aren't rich because they blow it all drinking, gambling, anyways, people who picked us up gave us all kinds of money just because we looked kinda hungry.

Louisiana: unique and delicious food, eerie cypress swamps, accents of varying thickness, smokey jazz clubs, and thinly veiled racism all lend to an interesting experience for the extreme budget traveler. People are friendly and rides will almost surely feed you, get you high, or give you some money.

Getting to New Orleans is no problem, but getting out can be tricky. Outside of the big cities stand on the interstate and look confused and desperate while still upbeat. I had lots of short and interesting hop rides in LA. Look New Orleans link for more info for the Hitchhiking spot

## Law

Louisiana Revised Statutes 32:218 - Pedestrians soliciting rides or business A. No person shall stand on a public roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride, employment, or business from the occupant of any vehicle. Title 32.1 Definitions (59) "Roadway" means that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular traffic, exclusive of the berm or shoulder.



## MAINE

Hitchhiking in **Maine**, US, is fairly simple. Most drivers will stop for you, even in "No hitchhiking zones" which are generally along large interstates (such as I-95). There are "No hitchhikers" signs posted just past some of the on-ramps, so be sure to stand a good distance in front of them, as to not intimidate drivers. Thumbing the on-ramps to these freeways is legal, and hitchhiker Amylin waited no more than 5 minutes at most of the on-ramps to I-95 South on a clear day in November.

From the airport

Getting a ride from the Portland, ME International Airport (PWM) is fairly simple, since there is only one road to exit the airport: Jetport Blvd. If you walk backwards along this road with your thumb out, you have a fairly good chance of getting a ride. There is also a pick-up/drop-off spot just outside the exit, where people often wait for Taxis and car rides. There is also a local bus that stops at this spot that will bring you downtown. You might get a ride by talking to the people waiting here, as well. Often times, they can be friendly.

If you are heading North out of Portland, there are two awkward places to get on I295-N. It is often better to forgo these options. Take the city bus, route 7, to Falmouth and get off on the last stop. The ramp to I295-N is 1/4 mile from the bus stop. There is less traffic there than in Portland, but the flow is still steady and there is more room to pull over. It generally take less than 20 minutes to catch a ride.

Public Transportation

Bar Harbor and neighboring Acadia National Park, one of the most likely destinations for anyone visiting Maine, has a comprehensive, free bus service all around the island, and into Ellsworth on the mainland where a long-distance ride can be more easily caught.

Law

Title 29-A 2110 Hitchhiking Forbidden

1. Definition. As used in this section, "hitchhike" means to endeavor by words, gestures or otherwise to beg, invite or secure transportation in a motor vehicle not engaged in carrying passengers for hire, unless the hitchhiker is known to the driver or a passenger.
2. Violation. A person commits a traffic infraction if that person hitchhikes on:



- (a) The traveled portion of a public way
- (b) A limited access highway, including but not limited to the Maine Turnpike; or
- (c) Any portion of a public way during the nighttime.

5. Posting. An area in which hitchhiking has been regulated or prohibited must be clearly identified by posted signs.

6. Forfeitures. For a violation of subsection 2, a forfeiture not to exceed \$50 may be adjudged.

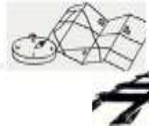
It could be said that Maine has the most vague and bizarre hitchhiking laws of any state in America. To further complicate the issue, Maine does not seem to define the term "limited access highway" which can be interpreted many different ways based on other states' definitions of the term. The most common legal definition seems to be: "Limited Access Highway" a highway or street especially designed or designated for through traffic, and over, from, or to which owners or occupants of abutting land, or other persons, have no right or easement, or only a limited right or easement of access, light, air, or view by reason of the fact that their property abuts upon such limited access facility, or for any other reason to accomplish the purpose of a limited access facility. Such highways or streets may be parkways, from which vehicles forming part of an urban public transportation system, trucks, buses, or other commercial vehicles may be excluded; or they may be freeways open to use by all customary forms of street and highway traffic, including vehicles forming a part of an urban public transportation system.

## 6. Federal Districts

**Note:** All land owned by the National Park service prohibits hitchhiking under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited *except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent.*

- Acadia National Park

Hitchhiking is permitted under the terms and conditions accorded in Maine State Law 2110



## MARYLAND

The North thinks that Maryland is the South and the South thinks it's the North. It is kinda the south- people drive their pickup trucks to high school with Confederate flags in the back window- but it's not the South.

### Law

21-507. Certain activities by pedestrians prohibited [Amendment subject to abrogation]. (a) Soliciting rides, employment, or business.- Except for the occupant of a disabled vehicle who seeks the aid of another vehicle, a person may not stand in a roadway to solicit a ride, employment, or business from the occupant of any vehicle.

Appendix B. Definitions: Roadway: That portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel and parking lanes, but exclusive of the sidewalk, berm, or shoulder even though such sidewalk, berm, or shoulder is used by persons riding bicycles or other human-powered vehicles.

In Maryland, the definition of roadway is exclusive of a shoulder, berm, or sidewalk and allows for solicitation of rides from these areas.



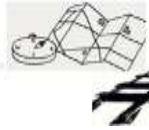


## Federal Districts

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- Catocin Mountain Park

4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited



## MASSACHUSETTS

**Massachusetts** is a state in the northeast of the United States of America. You can cross the state quickly on the I-95, if you avoid Springfield.

### Law

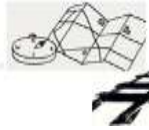
700 CMR (*ONLY APPLIES TO A SPECIFIC LIST OF ROADS, see definitions for list*) 700 CMR 5.000 is intended to facilitate the transfer of certain roadways and bridges from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)

#### 5.301: Pedestrian Rules

(4)Pedestrians Soliciting Rides or Business. No person shall stand in a roadway (*please see definition of roadway in this context below!*) for the purpose of soliciting a ride, employment or business from the operator or occupant of any vehicle without the written permission of the Commissioner or Commissioner's designee.

#### 5.102 Definitions

Roadway: McGrath and O'Brien highways in the cities of Cambridge and Somerville, Middlesex Avenue in the city of Medford, William Casey highway overpass in the Jamaica Plain section of the city of Boston, Columbia road in the South Boston and Dorchester sections of the city of Boston, Morton street in Boston and Gallivan boulevard in the Dorchester section of the city of Boston



**NOTE:** Because 700 CMR defines "roadway" in the context of this law as specifically those roads, it may be possible that you are breaking the law on any property of those roads *even when off the traveled portion of the roadway!* It is recommended to not hitchhike on these specific roads.

## 730 CMR

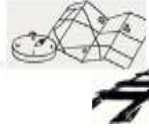
### 7.05: Massachusetts Turnpike Authority

(8) No individual may engage in the solicitation of a ride, commonly known as "hitchhiking," on a way. No person shall loiter in or about a way for the purpose of "hitchhiking" or for any other purpose

**NOTE:** 730 CMR is only applicable on the turnpike. When off the interstate, hitchhiking is not always illegal

General Laws of Massachusetts - Chapter 81A the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority and the Metropolitan Highway System. - Section 1 Massachusetts Turnpike Authority; constitution as public instrumentality "...Whoever, for the purpose of soliciting a ride on the turnpike or the metropolitan highway system, displays a sign, signals a moving vehicle, causes the stopping of a vehicle or stands on property of the authority in view of a ramp or roadway of the turnpike may be arrested without a warrant and shall be punished by a fine of not more than fifty dollars..."

Basically they really, really don't want you on the interstate/turnpike.



## Federal Districts

**Note:** All land regulated by the National Park service prohibits hitchhiking under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited *except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent.*

- Cape Cod National Seashore

4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.



## MICHIGAN

**Michigan** is a state of the United States. It is a vastly varied state for hitching with individual townships, villages, and municipalities having the legal authority to embrace, or outright ban the activity. The people in Michigan are also varied, but this Midwest winter wonderland has definite 'old country' appeal in most areas.

Detroit (Motown) makes it interesting.

Avoid Jackson and Ionia, they are prison towns. If you try hitching a ride in either town, there is a good chance people will suspect you of being an escaped convict on the run.

The Upper Peninsula has quite a decent reputation.

### Law

32.11\* Pedestrians soliciting rides or business: No person shall stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride, employment or business from the occupant of any vehicle. Michigan Vehicle Code Definitions: 257.55 "Roadway" defined. Sec. 55. "Roadway" means that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel.

Due to the exclusion of the term shoulder from the definition of roadway, it is advisable that one stays off the paved portion of the road completely and hitches from the grass or dirt.



## 7. Federal Districts

**Note:** All land regulated by the National Park service prohibits hitchhiking under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited *except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent.*

- Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lake Shore

4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.

- Pictured Rocks National Lake Shore

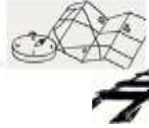
4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.

## 8. Law Experiences

"In relation to the legality, we were led to a local police office, where we were presented by the clerk with (and I kid you not) a print off of the Michigan laws documented at:

Digihitch.com, a completely independently run, unofficial website "*disclaims any and all responsibility or liability for the accuracy, content, completeness, **legality**, reliability, operability, or availability of information or material displayed on this site.*"[1]

"While digihitch is a very excellent resource and a helpful website, the fact that even a fraction of Michigan's law enforcement officers are basing their entire treatment of hitchhikers around information found on a third party website that has no legal standing says a great deal about this state's interest in providing a just and fair interpretation of the law; hitchhiking unfortunately remaining a huge gray area. In an opposite light, the same clerk offered to personally drive us to the city limit, showing just how confusing and scatter-shot hitchhiking in Michigan can be, even for law enforcement. All considered I would suggest trying your luck, checking local ordinances where possible, and shooting for long distance rides to avoid the hassle. Happy thumbing!" -The TKL Hitchers



## MINNESOTA

**Minnesota** is a state in the north-central United States, bordering Wisconsin to the east, Iowa to the south, North and South Dakota to the west, and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Manitoba to the north.

The primary metropolitan area in Minnesota consists of the twin cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. These cities can be somewhat difficult hitching out of. To the north lies Duluth.

Law

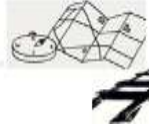
169.22 HITCHHIKING; SOLICITATION OF BUSINESS.

1.Soliciting ride. No person shall stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride from the driver of any private vehicle.

169.011 DEFINITIONS.

68.Roadway. "Roadway" means that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the sidewalk or shoulder. During periods when the commissioner allows the use of dynamic shoulder lanes as defined in subdivision 25, roadway includes that shoulder..

In the area round the airport off I-35 on the southern edge of Minneapolis, the cops have a tendency to arrest hitchers on flimsy homeland security pretexts.



## 9. Federal Districts

**Note:** All land regulated by the National Park service prohibits hitchhiking under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited *except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent.*

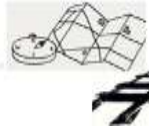
- Mississippi National River And Recreation Area

4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.

- Voyageurs National Park

4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited





## MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi is basically the third world. Frankly I love it. Barefoot people with fishing rods- comes straight out of Huck Finn. People like to drink in bars and party here, you should too. Lots of pills (painkiller type)- for some reason the doctors there prescribe them a lot, and everybody sells their prescription.

Mississippi is fucking cheap as hell. Wall mart is king here: after the hurricane it paid businesses not to re open.

Some places are kinda clannish, meaning both meanings basically- "people don't take kindly to strangers 'round these parts" and I don't know but I wouldn't be surprised to find some KKK shit some place unfortunately- this is country as country can get.

Mississippi people are fucking great, they aren't pretentious, they're kind hearted, and they basically are big fans of having fun- meaning specifically drinking in bars. And fishing. I hope you're not a vegetarian.

As for catching a ride, you'll find Mississippi to be much like other southern states. Long waits, weird looks, and extremely nice (if slightly naive) people actually practising what they read in the bible they so regularly thump. Gas stations and truck stops are the way to go, just chat people up and ask about their destination. Watch for license plates to get an idea of where people are headed. Be prepared for the occasional truck full of angry young rednecks wanting to kick your ass. It happens. On the flipside every ride I caught in Mississippi went out of their way to drop me in a good spot, some bought me food, some smoked me up, some gave me painkillers, and one guy even gave me some money

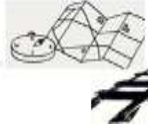
Law

63-3-1109. Solicitation of rides by pedestrians. No person shall stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride from the driver of any private vehicle.

Section 101.02 Definitions: "Roadway" All surface portions of the roadway between shoulder lines.

### **10. Federal Districts**

**Note:** All land owned by the National Park service prohibits hitchhiking under the Code of Federal



# Scott Notes

U.S. HITCH HIKE INFORMATION

**Volume:** 2015 **Issue:** 1123040

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Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited *except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent.*

**Gulf Islands National Seashore** 4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.



## MISSOURI

**Missouri** is a state of the United States of America. It has a reputation among hitchhikers as having a very tolerant culture for free spirited travelers.

### Roads

User:Thewindandrain gives the roads here a score of 3 out of 3 stars.

- Shoulders

Very wide shoulders are usually built at the edge of towns, making it easy for people to pull over. **Missouri** has some of the widest shoulders in the country.

- Pedestrian Rights

Pedestrian rights in Missouri are perhaps the friendliest in the country. Pedestrians are allowed on virtually every single road in **Missouri** including interstates.

- Interchanges

Split-traffic interchanges are used occasionally. Springfield and Camdenton have a few of them. Missouri's biggest weakness lies in the construction of several major highways which bypass towns with very low traffic ramps instead of going through the middle of town, greatly extending waiting times if you are dropped off in a smaller town on a four lane highway such as US 60 and US 36. Because of this, it is often best to travel along two lane highways or wait for rides to larger towns.

### Law

Missouri is unique in that they haven't even adopted the uniform vehicle code prohibiting pedestrians from soliciting rides while on the roadway. They have no state wide law addressing the solicitation of rides by pedestrians. Missouri is also one of the few states which allow pedestrians on the interstate.

### 11. Local Laws

The only city in Missouri that seems to prohibit hitchhiking is Mexico.



Mexico, Missouri law states:

Sec. 10-22. - Hitchhiking; standing on street to solicit employment or business.(a)No person in this city shall hitchhike, thumb rides or go upon the public streets and highways for the purpose of soliciting free transportation



## MONTANA

Western Montana is full of beautiful forests and even when you are stuck waiting, the scenery makes it OK.

Hardly any highways in Montana are off-limits for pedestrians, *including Interstates*. However, the speed limit is quite high, so a highly visible spot is essential.

### Law

61-8-507. Pedestrian soliciting rides, business, or contributions. (1) A person may not stand on a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride.

Montana does not define roadway but says: Interpretation of this chapter in this state must be as consistent as possible with the interpretation of similar laws in other states. Therefore the definition of roadway can be assumed to allow hitchhiking from the shoulder of the road. As with most states, if you are hitching from the shoulder or berm of the highway, you are not committing a crime.

Additionally, in Montana it's normal for travellers - be it by bike or on foot - to use the Interstate shoulder. There's no reason why a hitchhiker shouldn't do the same; there's much less police around than in other states and they really don't care about hitchhikers on the Interstate at all. If you piss them off, however, they might be able to give you trouble for being on the Interstate, so maybe don't flip them off when they drive by you.



## Federal Districts

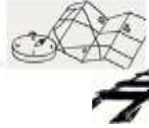
**Note:** All land regulated by the National Park service prohibits hitchhiking under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited *except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent.*

- Yellowstone National Park

Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation shall be permitted within Yellowstone National Park except: ,withing two tenths of a mile of an entrance station. ,within 200 feet of a school, concession business or park service office building or visitor center. ,in a residential area where signs exist establishing the area as residential areas only and discouraging public traffic. ,while holding or having a sign which is larger than two feet by two feet in size. ,the hitchhiker must stay off the paved surface of the roadway, though a hitchhiker may stand on pavement if clearly in a paved pullout. ,where vehicles may not safely pull off of the main traffic lane ,during the hours of darkness unless the hitchhiker is wearing bright clothing. ,while under the influence of alcohol or intoxicating drugs. ,when hitchhiking behavior is deemed unsafe or a nuisance by Park Staff.

- Glacier National Park

Hitchhiking is permitted except within one half mile of entrance stations, providing that there is sufficient space for vehicles to pull completely out of traffic lanes, and that public safety is not otherwise compromised.



## NEBRASKA

**Nebraska** is a state of the United States of America.

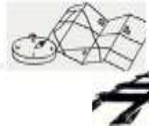
Law

60-6,157. Pedestrians soliciting rides or business; prohibited acts; ordinance authorizing solicitation of contributions.

(1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this section, no person shall stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride, employment, contributions, or business from the occupant of any vehicle.

60-656. Roadway, defined.

Roadway shall mean that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the berm or shoulder.



## NEVADA

### Roads

- Shoulders

Shoulders are usually built at the edge of towns, making it easy for people to pull over. In urban areas, the shoulders can be thinner than desired, but should still be enough for people to pull over for you.

- Pedestrian Rights

Pedestrian are allowed on most major four lane highways. Interstate 80 also permits pedestrians when outside larger towns.

- Interchanges

Split-traffic interchanges are used rarely in the Reno and Las Vegas areas, but are not used anywhere else, making waiting times often better than urban areas in neighboring California.

### Law

#### **12. The Low Down**

The legality of hitchhiking in the state of Nevada is debatable--even if you are not standing in the road or highway. Walking on an interstate highway is legal if there are no sidewalks nearby, but only if the pedestrian is walking in a direction facing traffic. Because the law is open to interpretation by police, it is not recommended to hold your thumb out to cars you suspect to be police or state troopers. They may still arrest you or issue you a citation.

Here are the laws themselves:

#### **13. Nevada State Statute (soliciting for a ride) [1]**

*NRS 484B.297 - 3.* A person shall not stand in a highway to solicit a ride or any business from the driver or any occupant of a vehicle. A person shall not, without a permit issued pursuant to NRS 244.3555 or 268.423, solicit any contribution from the driver or any occupant of a vehicle.





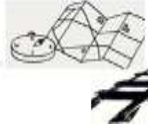
2. Pedestrians walking along highways where sidewalks are not provided shall walk on the left side of those highways facing the approaching traffic.

## **14. Nevada Definition of Highway [2]**

*(Note: the word "Roadway" is not used in this context)*

NRS 484A.095 - "Highway" defined. "Highway" means the *entire width between the boundary lines of every way dedicated to a public authority* when any part of the way is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular traffic, whether or not the public authority is maintaining the way. (Added to NRS by 1969, 1478; A 1981, 1690)—(Substituted in revision for NRS 484.065)

The definition of highway means the law can be interpreted by a cop to mean that if you are soliciting a ride within the fence (boundary) lines of any highway, even 10 feet off the side of the road, you are breaking the law. User:Thewindandrain knew a couple that received a citation for hitchhiking when they were on the dirt off the side of highway 93 near Wells, Nevada.



**15. Las Vegas City Ordinance (soliciting for a ride) [3]**

11.30.110- Solicitation from roadway. No person shall stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride, employment, or business from the occupant of any vehicle. (1949 code Ch. 36 § 96(c): prior code § 10-16-9(A))

**16. Las Vegas definition of Roadway [4]**

13.24.010 - "Roadway" means that portion of a street improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel.



## NEW HAMPSHIRE

**New Hampshire**, US, is a hitchhiking-friendly state, especially during the autumn when there is a lot of traffic coming through from the South to the North to observe the changing colors of the leaves.

Law

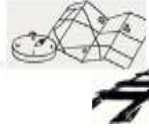
265:40 - Pedestrians Soliciting Rides Or Business

I. No person shall stand on the travelled portion of a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride, employment, business or contributions from the occupant of any vehicle.

New Hampshire is pretty clear. Stay off the traveled portion when hitchhiking and you will be fine.

Heading West (to Vermont), or North (to Canada)

101 West and I-93 North, around Manchester and Concord, are the major arteries that connects New Hampshire and Vermont. The quickest way to Vermont (or North to Montreal), from this point is to try and get onto I-89 N from I-93 N. There is a switch-off around Concord, with a rest stop that makes finding rides in this direction easier.



## NEW JERSEY

In the US state **New Jersey** (or as the locals call it, *Jersey*) it is illegal to hitchhike.

### Law

39:4-5, Begging rides prohibited. No person shall stand in a highway for the purpose of or while soliciting a ride from the operator of any vehicle other than an omnibus or a street car."

A highway is defined as any way between the boundary lines open for the public use. This includes on-ramps and shoulders.

Enforcement of this law by the police is very uptight. If you are stopped by the police in this state they will ask you for ID (as always) and probably just send you on your way. If it's a state trooper you are screwed. So remember: While hitching in NJ you have four options:

- Every time you see a white car, drop the thumb and start walking (and fast).
- Get a ride through the whole state.
- NJ Transit to the state line (PA has more favorable laws)

### Hitching Out

If you do choose to hitchhike west out of New Jersey, the best option is try to hitch onto I-80 West from Mt. Olive, which is accessible via NJ Transit. The on-ramp is within walking distance of the train station.



## NEW MEXICO

**New Mexico** is a state of the United States of America. Basically New Mexico is a spaceship. It's like a spaceship landed. All kinds of people: Old hippies, Mexicans, Indians, Jesus people with flowing robes and perfect posture scented strongly with Frankincense and God knows what other spices, weird people. 3HOs walking around in turbans. Mescaline. Fast hitchhiking.

Speaking of Spaceships there is a place just west of Taos called the Earthship community. Lot of retired hippies there who will gladly give you a ride and wish you luck hitching across the desolate 64 west of there. Do pay it a visit.

The skies are basically a florid dreamscape of trippy wonder. Sunsets are so psychedelic that it makes you want to cry.

### Law

66-7-340. Pedestrians soliciting rides or business.

A. No person shall stand in a roadway\* for the purpose of soliciting a ride, employment or business from the occupant of any vehicle.

- 66-1-4.15. Definitions. (2007)

N. "roadway" means that portion of a street or highway improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the berm or shoulder



## Federal Districts

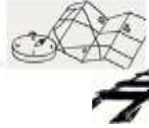
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- Carlsbad Caverns National Park

4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.

- Bandelier National Monument

Hitchhiking is permitted where traffic and road conditions will allow roadside standing/stopping in a safe manner that will not obstruct traffic. Hitchhiking is prohibited along the Entrance Rock from the main gate to the entrance at the main parking area of Frijoles Canyon.



## NEW YORK

**New York State** is a Northeastern State in the United States. Hitchhiking is generally easy and pleasant. In winter, make sure to dress warm and have alternate transportation plans if you get too cold.

### Law

§1157. Pedestrians soliciting rides, or business.

(a) No person shall stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride, or to solicit from or sell to an occupant of any vehicle.

§ 140. Roadway. That portion of a highway improved, designed, marked, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the shoulder and slope. In the event a highway includes two or more separate roadways the term "roadway" as used herein shall refer to any such roadway separately but not to all such roadways collectively.

### **17. Thruway**

102.4 Hitchhiking; loitering. The solicitation of a ride, commonly known as hitchhiking, or stopping any vehicle for the purpose of picking up or discharging a hitchhiker, on any portion of the Thruway system, including toll plazas, is prohibited. Loitering in or about the toll plazas or any other portion of the Thruway system, for the purpose of hitchhiking or for any other purpose, is prohibited.

It is definitely illegal to hitchhike on any part of the New York State Thruway including the on-ramp and the service area:



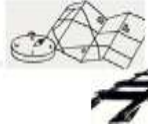
## 18. Federal Districts

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- Gateway National Recreation Area

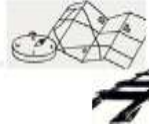
4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.





## **NORTH CAROLINA**

No information available at this time...



## NORTH DAKOTA

**North Dakota** is a state of the United States of America. ...and, oh yeah! you can hitchhike here! Though it's frigid in the winter, and the folks sometimes seem a bit suspicious, the folks that pick you up, if they're not local farmers, will often take you for long rides, as there's a lot of empty road in N.D. beautiful sky. Aw-haw. Grand Forks' nice.

### Law

North Dakota Code 39-10-34 - Pedestrian soliciting ride or business

1. No person may stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride

Title 39 Motor Vehicles. Chapter 39-01 Definitions and General Provisions.

68. "Roadway" means that portion of the highway designed, improved, or ordinarily used for vehicular traffic, exclusive of the berm or shoulder.

As with most states, stay off the traveled portion of the road and you will be fine.

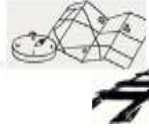


## 19. Federal Districts

**Note:**All Federal "Parks, Forests, and public land" prohibit hitchhiking under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent.

This is often amended by the superintendents of different Federal Districts making hitchhiking legal in places where this section is amended. The following are some such places:

**Theodore Roosevelt National Park** CFR 4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is illegal



## OHIO

American Midwest is full of friendly down to earth people that enjoy life at a slower pace than some from the east coast are used to.

### Law

#### 4511.51 Hitching of Rides

Soliciting a ride from the driver of any vehicle while on a roadway outside a safety zone is forbidden. Standing on a highway to solicit business is also forbidden. A person shall not hang onto or ride on the outside or the rear end of any motor vehicle moving on a roadway. Drivers shall not permit any person, other than workers performing maintenance or construction duties, to ride in the cargo storage area or on a tailgate while the tailgate is unlatched.

#### 4511.01 Definitions

(EE) "Roadway" means the improved surface ordinarily used for vehicular travel. Excludes the shoulder.

As with most states, hitchhike off the traveled portion of the road and you should be fine.



## Federal Districts

**Note:** All land regulated by the National Park service prohibits hitchhiking under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited *except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent.*

- Cuyahoga Valley National Park

4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.



## OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma is a difficult place to hitchhike.

Despite popular belief, Oklahoma is a geographically diverse state. It is one of only four states to contain 11 or more ecological regions. While the majority of high traffic Oklahoma is flat farmland, there are many pockets of gorgeous geography if you seek them. Some of the more scenic places in Oklahoma are the black mesa area, Little Sahara state park, the Ouachita mountains, the Ozark hills, the Arbuckle Mountains, the Wichita Mountains, the hills north of Anadarko, and Lake Murray State Park.

Law

Oklahoma doesn't appear to have a state law regarding hitchhiking other than: 47-11-1401-D1

D. It shall be unlawful for any person to travel a turnpike on foot except to leave or service a disabled vehicle, or for any person to hitchhike on a turnpike.

Turnpikes will have no pedestrian signs anyways, so this law is redundant.

Most municipalities in Oklahoma have a law prohibiting the solicitation of rides from the roadway, meaning that if you are off the paved portion of a road, you are not in violation of these codes.

Be careful in Oklahoma as cops are notorious liars and terrorists and frequently scare off hitchhikers by threatening to arrest them when they aren't breaking the law.

### **20. Federal Districts**

Note: All Federal "Parks, Forests, and public land" prohibit hitchhiking under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent.

This is often amended by the superintendents of different Federal Districts making hitchhiking legal in places where this section is amended.

**Chickasaw National Recreation Area** CFR has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is illegal.



## OREGON

**Oregon**, a state of the US, is great for hitchhiking. No long waiting times, and it's *legal to walk on the freeway!* Don't hesitate to actually do it, if you can't find a ride on the on-ramp. Lots of people do stop on the freeway. Cops won't harrass you. And even trucks will stop on the on-ramps. Often you will find yourself dropped off at the exact place where you wanted to be.

Try to opt for a ride that will bring you directly- or most of the way- to your destination. While there are many laws that protect hitchhikers in the state of Oregon, the practice of hitchhiking can be somewhat frowned upon in small towns, such as Albany (Oregon), as well as the capital city of Salem, which both have reputations for being fairly conservative places.

Be aware of Phoenix, Oregon!!! That city has a reputation for being HARSH towards hitchhikers! Beyond that, Oregon is a GOOD state for hitching!

### Roads

- Shoulders

Wide shoulders are almost always built along the edges of towns throughout the entire state, making it easy for people to pull over to pick you up.

- Pedestrian Rights

**Oregon** has very friendly pedestrian rights. It allow pedestrians practically everywhere, including on the vast majority of interstate property with few exceptions.

- Interchanges

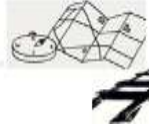
Split-traffic interchanges are rarely encountered here.

### Law

#### 814.080<sup>1</sup> Unlawful hitchhiking

(1) A person commits the offense of unlawful hitchhiking if the person is on a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride.

(2) The offense described in this section, unlawful hitchhiking, is a Class D traffic



violation.[1]

Title 59. Chapter 801. General Provisions and Definitions for Oregon Vehicle Code

801.450 "Roadway" means the portion of a highway that is improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the shoulder.[2]

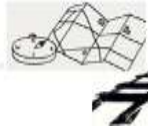
## **21. Federal Districts**

**Note:**All land regulated by the National Park service prohibits hitchhiking under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited *except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent.*

- Crater Lake National Park

4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.





## PENNSYLVANIA

### General

Hitchhiking is generally well-received in rural areas of Pennsylvania. I-80 in particular has many good hitchhiking spots and is not heavily patrolled by police, and should be considered the optimal way of hitching across the state.

### Law

Pedestrians soliciting rides or business - 75 Pa. Cons. Stat. 3545

545. Pedestrians soliciting rides or business.No person shall  
(1) Stand on a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride.

Roadway—That portion of a highway improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the sidewalk, berm or shoulder even though the sidewalk, berm or shoulder is used by pedalcycles.

Title 67 Transportation PART II. TURNPIKE COMMISSION (see note below)

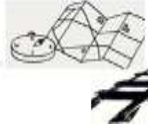
#### CHAPTER 601. TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

601.11. Hitchhiking. The solicitation for a ride, commonly known as "hitchhiking," is prohibited, and stopping or allowing a vehicle to be standing while hitchhikers board is also prohibited.

**NOTE** CHAPTER 601's scope only includes the turnpike/interstates. CHAPTER 601 is encoded under TURNPIKE COMMISSION and may not be enforced on any other road and should only be enforced by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Authority.

### Federal Districts

**Note:**All land owned by the National Park service prohibits hitchhiking under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited *except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent.*



- Gettysburg National Military Park

4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.

- Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.



## RHODE ISLAND

**Rhode Island** is bordered by Massachusetts to the north and Connecticut to the west. It takes roughly one hour (depending on traffic and daring of driver) to drive I-95 from the north to the eastern boarder of the state.

Traveling *through* Rhode Island is quick and pretty easy as New York is three hours south, and Boston one hour north of Providence (Along 95)

North on I-95

I-95 splits into I-93 (going directly through the city of Boston) and I-95 North (making a large half loop around Boston) Where 95 and 93 intersect again you can choose to stay on 93 north which will bring you to Manchester, NH and north through White Mountains National Forrest. By staying on 95 north you will take a eastern course that will bring you to Portland, Augusta, Bangor, Penobscot, and on up and over to Houlton, Maine where you can cross over into Canada.

Law

Title 31 Motor and Other Vehicles

### Chapter 18 Pedestrians

Section 12 Hitchhiking in road. No person shall stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride from the driver of any vehicle. Violations of this section are subject to fines enumerated in Â§ 31-41.1-4.

### Chapter 1 Definitions and General Code Provisions

#### Section 23 Types of Roads.

(h) "Roadway" means that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, excluding the sidewalk, berm, or shoulder even when used by persons riding bicycles.

There are city ordinances that provide smaller communities with loop-holes to criminalize hitching. Anything from a rare \$250 dollar (175.28 Euro) ticket, to jail time. Though jail time is normally reserved as an add-on offense rather than an arresting offense.



# Scott Notes

U.S. HITCH HIKING INFORMATION

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## SOUTH CAROLINA

**South Carolina** is a state in the United States. Hitchhiking is okay, as long as you don't stand on the roadway. Fines may be high, so be aware. South Carolina has the cheapest gas in America, which means that people from nearby states often cross the border to fill up. In addition, those on longer trips will wait until they get here to refuel and takeaway break. Travel centers in South Carolina are surprising hubs for long distance drivers.

### Towns

#### Spartanburg

There is not much to do in Spartanburg, though the locals are very friendly. It is a poor town and quite conservative. There are some cool old, graveyards and abandoned houses to explore.

If you are traveling between Atlanta and points Southwest to Western North Carolina, Virginia, or Eastern Tennessee, you can take 85 north out of Atlanta until you hit 26 at Spartanburg. The first exit west on 26 after it intersects 85 will take you to two gas stations. There is some local traffic here, but also many people going north into Asheville and beyond. The locals are friendly, though conservative. They even drove Owen to Asheville just because they 'had nothing better to do' and treated him to beer.

#### Greenville Area

There are many large fuel stations in the Greenville area, especially in the North near Traveler's Rest. There is also a Pilot Station outside of Piedmont with both car And truck traffic. Owen found rides immediately.



## Law

### Article 25 Pedestrians; Rights and duties thereof

Section 56 5 3180. Pedestrians soliciting rides or business.

(a) No person shall stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride.

## Definitions

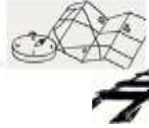
Road - That part of the trafficway which includes both the roadway and any shoulder alongside the roadway.

While South Carolina doesn't appear to define "roadway" in a legal context, the definition of "road" appears to imply that "roadway" is a section of the "road" which does not include the shoulder. Because of the lack of a definition for roadway in South Carolina, it is advisable that one hitchhikes from off the paved portion of a road to avoid any trouble.

## 22. Federal Districts

**Note:** All land owned by the National Park service prohibits hitchhiking under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent.

**Congaree National Park** For the purpose of hiking a park trail, hitchhiking is permitted to obtain transportation back to one's vehicle or from one's vehicle to a trail entry point. It shall not be permitted where it creates a traffic hazard.



## SOUTH DAKOTA

### Law

South Dakota doesn't appear to have any state laws regarding hitchhiking. To be safe, stay on the shoulder of a road when hitchhiking.

### Federal Districts

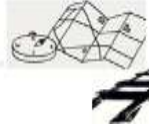
**Note:** All land regulated by the National Park service prohibits hitchhiking under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited *except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent.*

- Badlands National Park

Hitchhiking, or the soliciting of transportation, is permitted within the Park provided that the person does not stand in a roadway and that the hitchhiking/solicitation do not adversely affect visitor safety or the normal flow of traffic

- Wind Cave National Park

4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.



## TENNESSEE

Tennessee and most of the southern United States is fairly conservative, so, as always, being respectful is a must for any hitchhiker. Most of the people down here are some of the nicest folks around. The few that aren't are everywhere, though, not just in Tennessee.

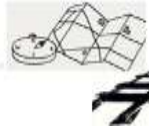
Musicians are greatly appreciated here. Street performing, especially country-related, is a great way to generate revenue for your hitchhiking experience. Carrying a sign is alright, as long as it's humorous. People respond much better to a sign that has personality than despair.

Sales tax in Tennessee is very high - almost ten percent. That means in general, money is tighter than usual. Luckily, there are plenty of Dollar Generals, Wal-Marts, and gas stations to circumvent this cost.

Tennessee is divided into three sections- West, Middle, and East. The "capitals" of these three regions are, in order: Memphis, Nashville, and Knoxville. Remember that for determining where you need to go.

One thing that makes Tennessee appeal to hitchhikers is that the state has the largest amount of highways, bypasses, and interstates; surrounded by 8 states, Tennessee is a crossroads to the entire south, and as such your options for traveling from there are greatly improved.





## Law

55-8-139. Pedestrians soliciting rides or business. (a) No person shall stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride or employment from the occupant of any vehicle.

Department Policy: State of Tennessee Department of Transportation Definitions: Roadway - the portion of a highway intended for vehicular use.

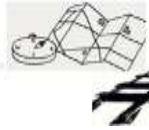
Based on the definition of roadway, soliciting rides from the shoulder may be illegal. It is advised that one hitchhikes from the grass, off the paved portion of a road. *However...*

The following law is from Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Division of State Parks and applies only within the boundaries of state parks: 0400-2-2-.04. BEGGING AND SOLICITING. (2) Hitchhiking or the soliciting of transportation is prohibited.

## Federal Districts

**Note:** All land maintained by the National Park service prohibits hitchhiking under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited *except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent.*

- Big South Fork National Recreation Area 4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.
- Cumberland Gap National Historical Park 4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.



## TEXAS

Texans can often be individualists, meaning they will often see your lack of a vehicle as a personal failure. However, in addition to having an individualist culture, Texans also tend to be notoriously friendly and laid-back. "Southern Hospitality" lives, if you're willing to engage your rides regardless of their accents, their political ideologies, or whatever nonsense may be pasted on their bumpers.

Texas is a massive state, with many of its residents having migrated from other states. Thus it is impossible to state anything "typical" of it. Additionally, there are many immigrants from Mexico, from whom you will receive many rides. The casual kindness of Mexicans can often be your salvation, and they'll just throw you in the back of the pickup without a second thought - maybe this is because hitchhiking is common in Mexico.

### Roads

- Shoulders

Very wide shoulders are built along the side of almost all highways, making it easy for people to pull over. **Texas** has some of the most abundant shoulders in the country.

- Pedestrian Rights

Pedestrian rights in **Texas** are among the friendliest in the country. Pedestrians are allowed on virtually every single road in **Texas** including interstates, with the exception of a few busy urban corridors.

- Interchanges

Split-traffic interchanges are unfortunately often found in the more urban areas of the central and eastern parts of the state, but are not common outside major metropolitan areas.

### Law

Chapter 552.007. SOLICITATION BY PEDESTRIANS. (a) A person may not stand in a roadway (*see definition below*) to solicit a ride, contribution, employment, or business from an occupant of a vehicle, except that a person may stand in a roadway to solicit a charitable contribution if authorized to do so



by the local authority having jurisdiction over the roadway.

Chapter 541.11 DEFINITIONS. "Roadway" means the portion of a highway, other than the berm or shoulder, that is improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel.

As with most states, the definition of roadway allows for the solicitation of rides on the non-travelled portion of a highway such as the shoulder or berm.

Texas is one of the few states where you can actually stand right on the side of the Interstate with your thumb out. Cops often offer rides out of their jurisdiction and call ahead to the next county to have them give you a ride.

## 23. Federal Districts

**Note:**All land regulated by the National Park service prohibits hitchhiking under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited *except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent.*

- Big Bend National Park

4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.



## UTAH

**Utah** is a Western state in the United States. Utah has many beautiful places, with a large percentage of wild land as well as state and national parks. The northern part of state is more heavily populated, while parts of central and Southern Utah are virtually uninhabited. Culturally, Utah is very religious, with a very high concentration of Mormons. Traditionally, Mormons treat travelers very well, although this may not hold true for hitchhikers who are often seen as vagrants. Many people from all over the state go buy their alcohol in Wyoming, so you could try to hitch from liquor stores there.

Hitching is pretty easy in Utah. As is true in most of the world, the the more clean cut you look the better your odds of catching a ride. This is especially true with Mormons.

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As a guideline, the state is generally divided into 3 sections: Northern, Central and Southern.

### **24. Northern Utah**

Northern Utah consists of it's most populated areas, generally starting around Spanish Fork up to the border of Idaho. Major cities in Northen Utah include: Salt lake city, Provo, Ogden, Logan and Park City.

### **25. Central Utah**

Central Utah ranges from Spanish Fork down approximately to Gunnison. There are no "major" cities in this area with the exception of Price.

### **26. Southern Utah**

Begins at the Arizona border and reaches approximately to Gunnison. Moab, Saint George and Cedar City are the main cities of Southern Utah.

Law

By strict definition, hitchhiking appears to illegal in Utah. However, many people successfully hitchhike through every year.

41-6a-1009. Use of roadway by pedestrians -- Prohibited activities. 3) Where a sidewalk or a shoulder is not available, a pedestrian walking along or on a highway shall



a.)walk as near as practicable to the outside edge of the roadway; and

b.)if on a two-way roadway, walk only on the left side of the roadway facing traffic

4) A person may not sit, stand, or loiter on or near a roadway for the purpose of soliciting from the occupant of a vehicle

a.)a ride

## Federal Districts

**Note:**All land regulated by the National Park service prohibits hitchhiking under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited *except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent.*

- Zion National Park

Hitchhiking is allowed only in established roadside pullouts.

- Bryce Canyon National Park

4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.

- Capitol Reef National Park

Hitchhiking is allowed on park roads in locations where a hazard is not created. Hitchhikers must stand on the road shoulder and not on the pavement. Obstructing traffic is prohibited.

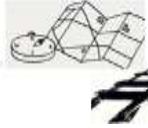
- Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.

- Canyonlands National Park

4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.

- Arches National Park



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4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.



## VERMONT

Vermont is a hitchhiking mecca. It has the second smallest population of any U.S. state, which means that people hitchhike there like they do in Mayberry: everybody knows everybody else. Often, cars driving by have seen a certain person on the road before, so they pull over. Thumb is a common method of transportation in Vermont, though usually not more than 50 miles, as it's small state (ranked 45th in area). Some people hitch to work, some hitch to school, and some just thumb it across New England. It's arguably the easiest place to hitchhike in the entire United States.

Rides come from anyone: parents going to work, kids going to school, even grandmothers out running errands. Vermont is perhaps the most ideal place in the country to raise a family, with its comprehensive healthcare for all children, wide variety of quality schools, freedom of thought and expression, and consistently low crime rate. But it's not all Mayberry in the Green Mountains. Vermont is very 4-20 friendly, and odds are while thumbing through the state a traveler will have the chance to sample some salad-like, uplifting and contemplative homegrown herb. The state is also home to a few of North America's best microwbrews.

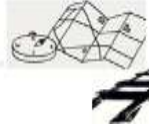
But the cops in Vermont are usually very chill and whoever gets a ticket for hitchhiking has usually done something to piss them off. They actually tend to be very helpful with directions and other knowledge. Another thing about rides in Vermont: be prepared to hear all kinds of local stories.

Vermonters are a hardy people, enduring temperature changes approaching 130 degrees within the course of a year. Here you will find rednecks and flatlanders, hicks and hippies alike, most of whom are content to live and let live. Vermont is the most progressive state in the nation, the most tolerant and most ecologically aware, yet people still get up in the morning and milk the cows the same as they have for 200 years.

The two major interstates in Vermont are I-89 and I-91. Hitchhiking here is restricted to the onramps, as in most US states.

I-91 parallels the Connecticut River along the eastern side of the state. It's the main artery for traveling to points North (Montreal, Sherbrooke, Quebec city) or South (New York, Springfield, Hartford). Most of the exits along the way lead to small towns, which can sometimes make for very little traffic. In fact, aside from St. Johnsbury, Brattleboro and White River Junction, there really aren't any high-traffic onramps, so don't get stuck in small towns like Ascutney.

I-89 starts in St. Albans, by the Quebec border and goes southeast to Concord, New Hampshire, passing through the lone city the state capitol of Montpelier, and White River Junction. On the western portion, from the border to Montpelier it's easy to get a ride, but between Barre and White River Junction



there's not a lot of traffic getting on.

Law

Title 23. Motor Vehicles

23 V.S.A. 1157. Pedestrians soliciting rides, or business.

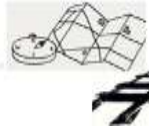
(a) No person shall stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride, or to solicit from or sell to an occupant of any vehicle.

23 V.S.A. 4. Definitions

(32) "Roadway" is that portion of a highway improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular traffic, exclusive of the shoulder.

Basically, hitchhiking from the shoulder is legal.





## VIRGINIA

### Law

46.2-929. Pedestrians soliciting rides. Pedestrians shall not stand or stop in any roadway for the purpose of soliciting rides.

46.2-100. Definitions. "Roadway" means that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the shoulder.

### 27. Federal Districts

**Note:**All land owned by the National Park service prohibits hitchhiking under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited *except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent.*

- Blue Ridge Parkway

4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.

- Shenandoah National Park

Hitchhiking is permitted in the following areas under the conditions noted: Along Skyline Drive and in developed areas when associated with hiking within the park

- Green Springs National Historic Landmark District

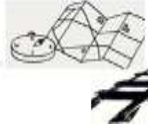
4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.

- Prince William Forest Park

4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.

### 28. Local Laws

Anecdotal report(s) indicate that police may fine people for hitchhiking in Norfolk. Despite this, Norfolk city ordinance does allow hitchhiking while off the roadway. Sec. 25-631. Hitchhiking.



# Scott Notes

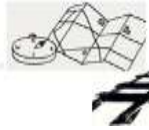
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No pedestrian shall stand or stop in any roadway for the purpose of soliciting rides.

(Code 1958, § 29-591.1)



## WASHINGTON

**Washington State** (WA for short) is state in the Pacific Northwest region of the contiguous United States.

Some describe the stretch of land between Seattle and Olympia as a mean, thick, urban corridor of 200 miles of city. This implies the availability of intercity buses - you can get all the way from Olympia to Bellingham for a relatively low fare, although several transfers are needed, typically in Lakewood, Downtown Seattle, Everett, and Mt. Vernon. But the good news is that there's a funky little bus service called the CAP that runs two or three times daily from Tumwater outside Oly to Vancouver (WA), and it's only \$1. Although, according to information on Digihitch, there are a lot of good rest stops in WA, especially heading North from Portland, Oregon, on I-5.

In the state of Washington, the hitchability is very dependant on the area. Northwestern Washington (anywhere north of Everett) is, for example, extremely easy to hitchhike with waiting times averaging about 20 minutes on interstate on-ramps for a solo 6'6 tall, slightly intimidating guy (and considerably less on smaller roads). Although the urban corridor that was mentioned before can be problematic, it is nonetheless not exceedingly difficult to find someone going past the corridor in the direction of Oregon. The direction British Columbia may be harder though. Eastern Washington seems to be a bit more tricky to deem 'good' or 'bad' for hitchhiking. While the area in Spokane's vicinity is definitely not the most hitchfriendly, in certain parts, such as the area around Okanagen, it is very easy to hitchhike. In other words: hitchhiking in Washington varies dramatically depending on which area you find yourself trying to thumb through.

Law

Title 46

Chapter 61

RCW 46.61.255 Pedestrians soliciting rides or business.

(1) No person shall stand in or on a public roadway or alongside thereof at any place where a motor vehicle cannot safely stop off the main traveled portion thereof for the purpose of soliciting a ride for himself or herself or for another from the occupant of any vehicle.

Chapter 4 Definitions



# Scott Notes

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RCW 46.04.500 "Roadway" means that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the sidewalk or shoulder even though such sidewalk or shoulder is used by persons riding bicycles.

When hitchhiking, stay on the shoulder where there is a safe place for someone to stop for you and you should be alright.



## 29. Federal Districts

**Note:** All land regulated by the National Park service prohibits hitchhiking under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited *except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent.*

- Mount Rainier National Park

4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.

- North Cascades National Park

4.31 has not been amended here, so hitchhiking is prohibited.

Places to see

Washington is a trove of raw, wild, gorgeousness.

Have a look at the Sjrideshow for the archipelago county of San Juan in Washington State.

The Olympic Peninsula is exquisite and glorious, with the only certified rain forest in the contiguous states. If you take a ferry across the Puget Sound (a kind of mystical fjord that hosts the worlds largest octopi), hitchhiking the peninsula is a blast: bring hiking gear and head into the mountains for a few days. Bring a poncho: 220 inches (560 cm) of rain per year here.



## WEST VIRGINIA

**West Virginia** is a state in United States of America It is an excellent state to catch rides in. You may hear people referring to it as "almost heaven." The entire state is nothing but beautiful trees and mountains everywhere you look. There is a largely "unregulated" feel to it. If you spend some time here you may catch the vibe. Community is a highly valued concept to West Virginians which may be why their crime rate is so low despite high poverty and why everyone is willing to help out a hitchhiker.

### Recreation

If you are looking for outdoor activities, the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation area is a good place to experience the best the state (and arguably the entire Appalachian region) has to offer. There is abundant hiking, rock climbing, camping, skiing, swimming, and anything else your earth-loving heart desires.

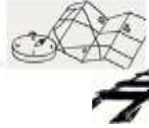
### Law

17C-10-6. Pedestrians on roadways; soliciting rides.

(c) No person shall stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride from the driver of any vehicle.

17C-1-37. Roadway.

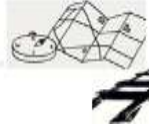
"Roadway" means that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the berm or shoulder.



## Federal Districts

**Note:** All land regulated by the National Park service prohibits hitchhiking under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited *except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent.*

- New River Gorge National River, Gauley River National Recreation Area, Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area, and Bluestone National Scenic River Area share the same compendium and 4.31 has not been amended, so hitchhiking is prohibited. However federal agents are rare here and the federal regulations are unlikely to be enforced.



## WISCONSIN

**Wisconsin** is a state of the United States of America. It is a difficult state to hitchhike in for several reasons. People are wary to pick anyone up, and the way the freeway entrances are set up makes it difficult to catch traffic. It's located in the north-central U.S, and its capital is Madison, while its largest city is Milwaukee. Wisconsin can be very cold in the winter, so clothes that would keep you warm are recommended.

It's smart to use truck stops and on ramps to hitch.

### Law

346.29 When standing or loitering in roadway\* or highway prohibited.

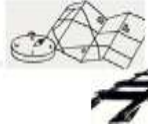
(1) No person shall be on a roadway\* for the purpose of soliciting a ride from the operator of any vehicle other than a public passenger vehicle.

346.02 Applicability of chapter.

(8) Applicability to pedestrian ways

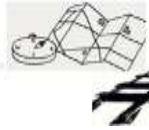
(a) All of the applicable provisions of this chapter pertaining to highways, streets, alleys, roadways\*, and sidewalks *also apply to pedestrian ways*. A pedestrian way means a walk designated for the use of pedestrian travel





**Important Note** This means that hitchhiking from sidewalks is *illegal!*

\*CHAPTER 340 VEHICLES — GENERAL PROVISIONS 340.01 Words and phrases defined. (54) "Roadway" means that portion of a highway between the regularly established curb lines or that portion which is improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, excluding the berm or shoulder.



## WYOMING

**Wyoming** is a state in the Mid-West of the United States. It generally gets a bad rap for hitchhiking; other people (Zenit) consider this to be one of their favorite states in the whole US. Also it's great for pickup truck hitchhiking. So be prepared for rain and cold!

Rides can be few and far between in Wyoming, thus, the state troopers have a good chance in spotting you. And if you happen to get stuck in Buffalo, there's a railing along a bridge there where several lonely hitch-hikers from decades ago have signed their names. Add yours to the list, write something witty, then enjoy the four hour wait for your next ride.

### Law

Hitchhiking is officially legal as of July 1, 2013 in Wyoming. A bill was introduced January 9, 2013 by Senator Leland Christensen called Senate File 29 in the 62nd Wyoming Legislature to legalize hitchhiking in the state. The bill was signed into law on February 28th, 2013. (Note that local jurisdictions might differ and that some police officers might not be aware of the change in law.)

### 30. Federal Districts

**Note:** All land regulated by the National Park service prohibits hitchhiking under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 section 4.31: Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited *except in designated areas and under conditions established by the superintendent.*

- Yellowstone National Park

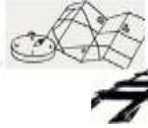
36 CFR Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation shall be permitted within Yellowstone National Park except:  
within two tenths of a mile of an entrance station.

Within 200 feet of a school, concession business or park service office building or visitor center.

In a residential area where signs exist establishing the area as residential areas only and discouraging public traffic.

While holding or having a sign which is larger than two feet by two feet in size.

The hitchhiker must stay off the paved surface of the roadway, though a hitchhiker may



stand on pavement if clearly in a paved pullout.

Where vehicles may not safely pull off of the main traffic lane

During the hours of darkness unless the hitchhiker is wearing bright clothing.

While under the influence of alcohol or intoxicating drugs.

When hitchhiking behavior is deemed unsafe or a nuisance by Park Staff.

- Grand Teton National Park

Hitchhiking shall be permitted EXCEPT: Within two tenths of a mile of an Entrance Station, Within 200 feet of a park service office building or visitor center, while holding a sign that is larger than 2'x2' in size