



7220 TRAVEL

# U.S. TOLL ROADS

Traveler Guide

*Toll passes, cashless roads, rental cars & road-trip tips*

**Family & Group Travel Experts**

*7220travel.com*



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# Toll Roads 101

Tolls are not just traditional turnpikes anymore. A family road trip may encounter a tolled highway, bridge, tunnel, express lane, or an all-electronic gantry with no booth at all.

**The big traveler takeaway: there is still no single toll transponder that works everywhere in the United States. Interoperability has improved dramatically, but coverage still depends on the pass, facility and sometimes the type of lane.**

| What you may see                         | What it means                                                              | Traveler watch-out                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Turnpike / toll road</b>              | A road where some or all segments require a toll.                          | Rates may depend on distance, vehicle class or time of day.                        |
| <b>Tolled bridge / tunnel</b>            | A crossing with a separate toll, often collected in one direction only.    | Your route can trigger a toll even when the surrounding highway is free.           |
| <b>Express / managed lane</b>            | An optional faster lane beside free general-purpose lanes.                 | Prices may change with congestion; HOV rules can require a special switchable tag. |
| <b>All-electronic tolling</b>            | No cash booth. A transponder or license-plate camera handles payment.      | Do not stop under a gantry. Know your payment method before entering.              |
| <b>Pay-by-plate / license-plate toll</b> | A camera reads the plate and bills the registered owner or linked account. | Usually costs more than a valid transponder; rentals may add service fees.         |

## Why this matters more than it used to

The Federal Highway Administration reports thousands of miles of tolled roads plus hundreds of miles of tolled bridges and tunnels. Many systems are now cashless, so travelers increasingly need to think about toll payment before the trip instead of at a booth.

# The Major Toll-Pass Networks

Think of toll passes as overlapping regional networks. The easiest pass for a local commuter is not always the easiest pass for a multi-state vacation.

| Pass / network                        | Strongest coverage                                                                                                               | Good to know                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>E-ZPass</b>                        | Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and much of the Midwest, with participating agencies extending into Florida, Georgia and North Carolina. | The broadest long-established interstate network. Facility rules and discounts can still differ by issuing agency.                                  |
| <b>SunPass PRO</b>                    | Florida plus the E-ZPass network and selected Central Hub states including Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.                 | Portable and especially useful for frequent Florida travelers who also road-trip widely. The basic SunPass Mini has narrower out-of-state coverage. |
| <b>NC Quick Pass</b>                  | North Carolina plus partner toll roads in 23 states.                                                                             | One of the widest current multi-region options. Texas coverage is only on participating facilities.                                                 |
| <b>Peach Pass</b>                     | Georgia Express Lanes plus E-ZPass partner states.                                                                               | Georgia also accepts E-ZPass-compatible passes and Southeast Hub partners such as SunPass and NC Quick Pass.                                        |
| <b>TollTag / Central Hub</b>          | Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and most participating facilities in Colorado and Florida; coverage continues expanding.                 | Texas has several toll agencies, but interoperable tags make statewide travel much easier.                                                          |
| <b>PIKEPASS / K-TAG / ExpressToll</b> | Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado and Texas, with selected additional partner facilities.                                               | Strong choices for Central U.S. road trips. Verify the exact facility before relying on cross-state use.                                            |
| <b>FasTrak</b>                        | California toll roads, toll bridges and express lanes.                                                                           | California-wide interoperability, but not an E-ZPass pass. Some express-lane discounts require a FasTrak Flex tag.                                  |

**7220 Travel Tip: If you already own a portable transponder, check its current interoperability before buying another one. More than one active tag in the same vehicle can create duplicate or misread transactions.**

# Northeast & Mid-Atlantic: The E-ZPass Corridor

This is where tolls feel most like a continuous travel network. A single road trip can cross several toll authorities in one day, yet a compatible E-ZPass account generally keeps payment seamless.

## New England

Maine Turnpike, New Hampshire toll facilities, Massachusetts Turnpike and participating bridges/roads.

## New York & New Jersey

New York State Thruway, Port Authority crossings, MTA bridges/tunnels, New Jersey Turnpike, Garden State Parkway and other participating facilities.

## Pennsylvania & Ohio

Pennsylvania Turnpike and Ohio Turnpike are common long-distance east-west road-trip routes.

## Maryland, Virginia & West Virginia

Expect tolled bridges, tunnels, turnpike segments and dynamically priced express lanes around major metro corridors.

## Midwest connections

Indiana Toll Road and Illinois Tollway connect the E-ZPass ecosystem farther west.

**Do not assume “E-ZPass accepted” means every discount follows you. Some local commuter, carpool or resident discounts are tied to a specific issuing agency or transponder type.**

## Road-trip planning note

In this region, “avoid tolls” routing can add substantial time or push you onto slower local roads. Compare the toll cost with the added driving time before automatically choosing the no-toll option.

# Florida & the Southeast

Florida is one of the states where visitors are most likely to encounter cashless tolling, especially around Orlando, Miami, Tampa and Florida's Turnpike. The Southeast also has a growing amount of transponder interoperability.

## Florida: SunPass, E-ZPass and cashless tolling

- **SunPass PRO** is the most travel-flexible Florida-issued device and works across Florida plus numerous partner states.
- **E-ZPass is accepted on Florida toll roads.** Travelers who already have a compatible E-ZPass generally do not need a separate SunPass PRO just for Florida.
- Many Florida facilities are all-electronic. The lower transponder rate can be meaningfully cheaper than plate-based billing.

## Georgia: Peach Pass

Georgia's Express Lanes accept Peach Pass along with interoperable E-ZPass-network and Southeast Hub transponders. Express lanes have vehicle restrictions and rules that can differ from ordinary toll roads, so verify eligibility before entering.

## North Carolina: NC Quick Pass

NC Quick Pass works on North Carolina toll facilities and across a broad 23-state partner network. North Carolina advises out-of-state users to make sure their vehicle plate is registered correctly with their home toll agency.

**Rental-car warning in Florida: standard TOLL-BY-PLATE invoicing is sent to the registered owner, not directly to the renter. Rental companies or their toll-service vendors typically pass the toll through and may add fees under the rental agreement.**

# Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas & Colorado

These states form an increasingly connected Central U.S. toll network, but travelers still need to pay attention to which facility participates.

## Texas

Expect toll roads and TEXpress lanes around Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston and Central Texas. NTTA TollTag is accepted on all Texas toll roads and has broad partner-state coverage. TxTag and EZ TAG are also common Texas systems.

## Oklahoma

Oklahoma's turnpike network is extensive. PIKEPASS works on Oklahoma turnpikes and partner facilities in multiple states; PlatePay is the camera-based alternative for vehicles without a valid tag.

## Kansas

The Kansas Turnpike is the state's best-known long-distance toll route. K-TAG participates in Central Hub interoperability.

## Colorado

E-470 and Colorado Express Lanes use ExpressToll or license-plate billing. Colorado currently accepts several out-of-state Central Hub/SunPass PRO tags on participating facilities. Northwest Parkway remains a notable exception for some interoperability arrangements.

**One tag, not two. Central Hub agencies repeatedly warn travelers not to keep multiple interoperable transponders active in the same vehicle because both systems can potentially register the trip.**

# California: FasTrak Is Its Own World

California tolling is statewide-compatible through FasTrak, but FasTrak is not simply another E-ZPass brand. If your trip is heavily California-focused, learn the local FasTrak rules rather than assuming an out-of-state pass will work.

## Bay Area

FasTrak is accepted on the Bay Area's eight toll bridges and on regional express lanes. Bridge tolls are generally cashless. Carpool or express-lane discounts may require a FasTrak Flex tag set correctly for the number of occupants.

## Southern California

Common toll facilities include Orange County's SR-73, SR-133, SR-241 and SR-261; the 91 Express Lanes; Los Angeles I-10/I-110 ExpressLanes; Riverside I-15 Express Lanes; San Diego I-15 Express Lanes and SR-125 South Bay Expressway; and I-405 Express Lanes.

## Rental vehicles

Bay Area travelers can use a rental company toll plan, their own FasTrak tag after adding the rental plate and dates, or a short-term license-plate account for bridge tolls. The short-term plate account does **not** cover express-lane tolls.

**California rule of thumb: bridge payment and express-lane eligibility are not the same thing. A license-plate option that pays a bridge toll may still be invalid for an express lane that requires a transponder.**

# Rental Cars: The Toll Fee Trap

Tolls themselves are often not the expensive part of a rental-car mistake. The surprise is usually the administrative fee, daily convenience charge or higher non-transponder rate added by the rental company or its toll-service vendor.

## 1. Before pickup

Check the rental company's toll program and whether the fee is charged only on toll-use days or across a larger portion of the rental.

## 2. At the car

Photograph the license plate. Look for a built-in or windshield toll device and understand whether it is active.

## 3. If using your own portable pass

Confirm it works on the facility, add the rental plate and exact rental dates to your toll account when the agency supports that feature.

## 4. Use one payment method

Do not run your own active transponder next to another active rental or personal toll tag. Avoid duplicate billing.

## 5. Return day

Remove your portable pass and delete/end the rental plate from your account promptly. Keep the rental agreement until all toll charges settle.

**Best habit for families: decide how tolls will be paid before leaving the rental facility. Trying to solve it after driving through the first cashless gantry is when the fees start multiplying.**

# Where Road-Trippers Most Often Encounter Tolls

This is a practical travel-planning view, not an exhaustive list. The FHWA inventory includes hundreds of toll roads and bridges nationwide, and even “low-toll” states can have a single tunnel, ferry, bridge or express lane that matters to your route.

| Travel region            | States / areas to watch                             | Typical toll exposure                                                         |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Northeast / Mid-Atlantic | ME, NH, MA, NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, VA, WV              | Turnpikes, major bridges/tunnels, urban crossings, express lanes.             |
| Great Lakes / Midwest    | OH, IN, IL and selected facilities in nearby states | Long-distance interstate toll roads plus metro-area tollways.                 |
| Southeast                | FL, GA, NC                                          | All-electronic toll roads and dynamically priced express lanes.               |
| Central / South          | TX, OK, KS, CO                                      | Large regional toll systems, turnpikes and managed lanes.                     |
| West Coast               | CA                                                  | Toll bridges, express lanes and Southern California toll roads under FasTrak. |
| Everywhere else          | Check the actual route, not just the state          | Individual toll bridges, tunnels, ferries or managed lanes can still appear.  |

## Use toll roads strategically

A toll is not automatically a bad thing. On a family vacation, a paid expressway that avoids an hour of congestion can be worth far more than the toll. Compare time, distance, fuel, stress and arrival timing - especially on travel days with timed reservations.

# 7220 Travel Toll-Road Checklist

- Review the full driving route and flag toll roads, bridges, tunnels and express lanes.
- Check the official toll authority - not just a navigation app - for current payment options.
- Confirm whether your existing transponder is accepted on every major toll segment.
- Make sure the toll account has a valid card, positive balance and correct license plate.
- For rentals, photograph the plate and read the rental-company toll terms before leaving.
- Use only one active interoperable transponder in the vehicle.
- Do not assume a pay-by-plate option authorizes use of an HOV or express lane.
- Use official toll calculators for expensive or toll-heavy routes when available.
- Keep toll and rental receipts until all post-trip charges have cleared.
- Treat unexpected toll-payment text messages with caution; toll agencies nationwide continue to warn about phishing scams.

**Before you drive: Toll rates, participating facilities and interoperability agreements can change. Re-check the official toll authority shortly before departure, especially for rental cars, express lanes and multi-state trips.**

## Need help building the route?

**7220 Travel** designs family and group trips with the practical details included - route planning, lodging strategy, drive times, parking, toll exposure and the “what happens if...” pieces that are easy to miss.

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# Official Sources & Verify-Before-You-Drive Links

This guide is designed for planning, not as a toll-rate schedule. Rates, tolling technology, lane rules and interoperability change. The following official sources were reviewed for this September 2026 edition.

**Federal Highway Administration - Toll Facilities in the United States**

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policyinformation/tollpage/page00.cfm>

**E-ZPass Group - participating members**

<https://www.e-zpassgroup.org.e-zpassiag.com/members>

**Florida SunPass PRO - interstate coverage**

<https://www.sunpass.com/en/about/pro.shtml>

**SunPass - rental vehicle tolls**

<https://www.sunpass.com/en/tolls/rentalVehicles.shtml>

**NC Quick Pass - where the pass works**

<https://www.ncquickpass.com/where-nc-quick-pass-works/>

**Georgia Peach Pass - FAQs and interoperability**

<https://peachpass.com/faqs/>

**North Texas Tollway Authority - plan your trip / TollTag coverage**

<https://www.ntta.org/plan-your-trip>

**Oklahoma PIKEPASS - interoperability**

<https://pikepass.com/plan-your-trip/interoperability>

**Colorado E-470 - toll-pass interoperability FAQs**

<https://www.e-470.com/how-tolling-works/faqs/>

**Colorado DOT - Express Lanes / passes**

<https://www.codot.gov/programs/expresslanes/get-a-pass>

**Bay Area FasTrak - toll locations**

<https://www.bayareafastrak.org/en/home/toll-locations.shtml>

**Bay Area FasTrak - rental vehicles**

<https://www.bayareafastrak.org/en/help/rental-vehicles-guide.shtml>

**Traveler disclaimer:** 7220 Travel has summarized official traveler information for convenience. Always follow current signs, toll authority rules, rental agreements and local law. Toll prices and accepted payment methods can change without notice.