



WHOLE-ROUTE PRINTABLE REFERENCE

U.S. Route 20 State-by-State Roadbook

A 30-page paper companion for reading the full Route 20 corridor as twelve state chapters, one Yellowstone planning gap, and a sequence of practical anchor towns from Newport to Boston.



Newport -> Bend -> Boise -> Yellowstone context -> Cody -> Sioux City -> Chicago side -> Cleveland -> Albany -> Boston / Kenmore

Reference first

Use this roadbook to keep the whole route visible without carrying twelve separate state planners.

Plan by chapter

Pick an overnight anchor and one meaningful stop instead of trying to solve every town at once.

Verify live

Roads, weather, park access, lodging, hours, parking, and seasonal conditions can change after printing.

The roadbook is organized west to east, from Newport to Boston. For a westbound trip, reverse the chapter order while keeping the same anchor hierarchy.



Current Route 20 overview

Scan for the live corridor overview, state pages, trips, segments, and place guides.



Keep the whole road visible without overplanning it

1 Choose a direction

These pages run Newport to Boston. Westbound travelers can simply reverse the chapter order.

2 Choose a state-sized planning problem

Each state chapter names the strongest anchors and the smaller stops that should remain selective.

3 Protect one overnight or reset anchor

Long states need pacing. Short states still need a decision about whether the main anchor is a stop, a detour, or an overnight.

4 Use the live site for the detailed layer

State pages connect to segments, trips, place pages, and the current route map. The roadbook intentionally stays at corridor scale.

5 Recheck the trip before departure

Paper is useful when the phone is inconvenient. It is not a substitute for current road, weather, park, lodging, parking, or local information.

Yellowstone is the special case: the US 20 designation does not continue through Yellowstone National Park. Treat the park crossing and its entrances as a separate live-routing decision rather than an ordinary highway segment.

Best for

- Whole-route orientation
- Multi-state trip planning
- Choosing state-sized overnight blocks
- Keeping handoffs visible on paper

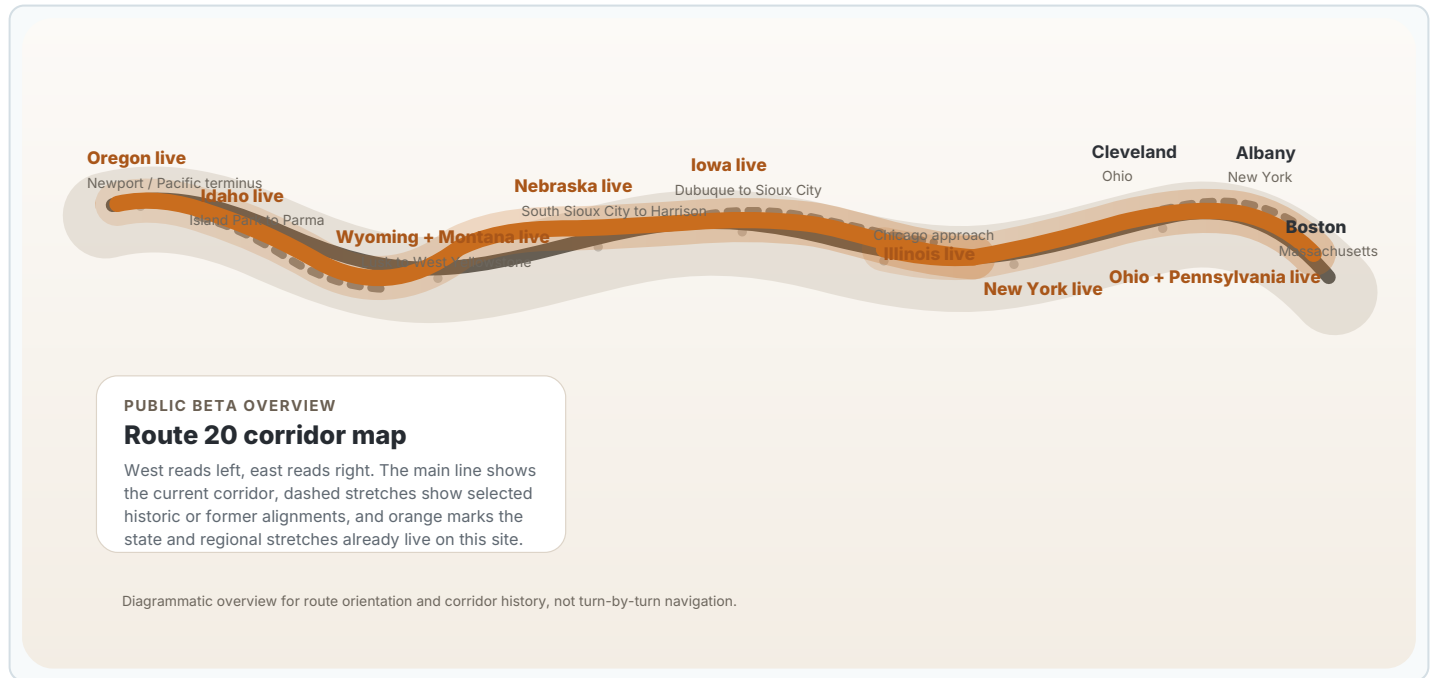
Not designed for

- Turn-by-turn navigation
- Live road or weather status
- Exact business hours
- Emergency instructions



WHOLE-ROAD SHAPE

Read Route 20 as four broad travel bands



1. PACIFIC + INTERIOR WEST

Oregon and Idaho

Newport, Bend, Boise, the Idaho high desert, and the west side of Yellowstone.

2. YELLOWSTONE + HIGH PLAINS

Montana, Yellowstone context, Wyoming, Nebraska

Treat the park as its own planning block, then use Cody, Thermopolis, Casper, Valentine, and Chadron to pace the long western interior.

3. MIDWEST RESET

Iowa, Illinois, Indiana

Use river gateways, Galena, Rockford, the Chicago approach, the Dunes side, South Bend, and Elkhart as the route shifts from Plains to Great Lakes travel.

4. GREAT LAKES + NORTHEAST

Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts

Toledo and Cleveland lead into the short Erie corridor, New York's long multi-chapter crossing, the Berkshires, central Massachusetts, and Boston / Kenmore.

The exact state sequence matters, but the larger travel bands keep the trip readable: Pacific / interior West, Yellowstone / High Plains, Midwest, then Great Lakes / Northeast.



The job of each state chapter

OR Oregon

Pacific launch / finish. Oregon works as a connected western chapter: coast, valley, Cascades, Central Oregon, high desert, and the Idaho-line handoff.

ID Idaho

Long western crossing. Idaho is one of the longest Route 20 state chapters. Divide Treasure Valley, high desert, the eastern city corridor, and the Yellowstone-side forest into separate decisions.

MT Montana

West Yellowstone connector. The Montana Route 20 story is not a normal statewide crossing. West Yellowstone is the decision point between stopping, entering Yellowstone, or transferring back toward Idaho.

WY Wyoming

Yellowstone gateway + basin crossing. Wyoming changes from Yellowstone gateway country to the Bighorn Basin, hot-springs country, a major city reset, and the High Plains handoff to Nebraska.

NE Nebraska

Long Plains bridge. Nebraska works best as a paced bridge. Distances can feel longer than they look, so choose a short list of anchors instead of treating every town as an equal stop.

IA Iowa

Readable Midwest backbone. Iowa has a readable east-west backbone. Treat Sioux City, Fort Dodge, Waterloo / Cedar Falls, and Dubuque as the strongest pacing anchors.

IL Illinois

Heritage corridor to metro scale. Illinois shifts from Mississippi River heritage towns to larger northern Illinois anchors and then Chicago-scale logistics.

IN Indiana

Dunes to inland city chain. Indiana shifts quickly from the Chicago industrial edge and Dunes country into an inland chain of cities and small towns.

OH Ohio

Long Great Lakes state. Ohio is long and varied. Choose one major anchor per travel zone and keep lakefront detours or smaller-town history selective.

PA Pennsylvania

Short Erie connector. Pennsylvania is short but choice-heavy. Erie is the dominant anchor; Girard and North East stay proportional, while lakefront and grape-country travel are deliberate detours.

NY New York

Long multi-chapter eastern crossing. New York needs several distinct chapters even at a brisk pace: Lake Erie villages, western Finger Lakes, rights-history country, central lake towns, rural eastern valleys, and Albany.

MA Massachusetts

Berkshires to Boston terminus. Massachusetts changes character repeatedly. Use cities as major resets, smaller towns as selective pauses, and treat Boston / Kenmore as a dedicated urban arrival or launch.

Montana is intentionally different: use West Yellowstone as a connector decision, then treat Yellowstone itself as a separate planning block before Wyoming.



Oregon

Oregon works as a connected western chapter: coast, valley, Cascades, Central Oregon, high desert, and the Idaho-line handoff.

West to east: Newport -> Corvallis / Albany -> Santiam Pass / Sisters -> Bend -> Burns -> Vale / Ontario / Nyssa -> Idaho

Anchor hierarchy

Use the places for the job they do best.

Newport	Pacific terminus and the place to mark the coast-to-coast start or finish.
Corvallis	Last strong inland base before the coast, with food, lodging, and a measured pause.
Bend	Strongest Central Oregon reset for food, supplies, outdoor choices, or a full night.
Burns	Practical high-desert anchor for services, local history, nature, or an overnight.
Ontario / Vale	Border-side services and the transition into or out of the long interior.

Current source: route20roadtrip.com/states/oregon/



Plan the Oregon chapter

Keep selective

Use Sisters for a walkable Cascades pause; make Santiam Pass a real weather and mountain-road decision; use Albany as a valley reset.

State-line handoff

Eastbound, leave Vale / Ontario with fuel, food, range, and daylight margin for Idaho. Westbound, protect the pass and coast-arrival checks before Newport.

Write the state in one sentence

One purpose beats a crowded checklist.

This state matters on my trip because...

Protect the practical decisions

Use current information before departure.

Primary overnight / reset anchor

Backup anchor

One stop worth slowing for

Fuel / food / service note

Weather / road / access check

What gets cut if the day slips

This roadbook is a paper reference, not a live status source. Recheck roads, weather, seasonal access, park routing, lodging, hours, and local conditions before driving.

Current source: route20roadtrip.com/states/oregon/



CHAPTER 7 - LONG WESTERN CROSSING

Idaho

Idaho is one of the longest Route 20 state chapters. Divide Treasure Valley, high desert, the eastern city corridor, and the Yellowstone-side forest into separate decisions.

West to east: Oregon line -> Parma / Caldwell -> Boise / Mountain Home -> Fairfield / Carey / Arco -> Idaho Falls / Rexburg -> Ashton / Island Park -> West Yellowstone

Anchor hierarchy

Use the places for the job they do best.

Caldwell	Practical Treasure Valley base near the Oregon handoff.
Boise	Idaho's strongest city anchor for a full afternoon, evening, or overnight.
Arco	History and services stop before volcanic landscapes and the quieter interior.
Idaho Falls	Primary eastern city anchor for riverfront time, museums, food, and services.
Rexburg	Strong eastern Idaho overnight base before the upper valley.
Island Park	Forest-and-river reset immediately west of Yellowstone.

Current source: route20roadtrip.com/states/idaho/



CHAPTER 8 - PLANNING NOTES



Plan the Idaho chapter

Keep selective

Mountain Home, Fairfield, Picabo, Carey, St. Anthony, and Ashton work best as purpose-driven pauses rather than equal-weight stops.

State-line handoff

Westbound, use Caldwell / Parma to prepare for eastern Oregon distances. Eastbound, let Island Park or Ashton end the day before adding Yellowstone decisions.

Write the state in one sentence

One purpose beats a crowded checklist.

This state matters on my trip because...

Protect the practical decisions

Use current information before departure.

Primary overnight / reset anchor

Backup anchor

One stop worth slowing for

Fuel / food / service note

Weather / road / access check

What gets cut if the day slips

This roadbook is a paper reference, not a live status source. Recheck roads, weather, seasonal access, park routing, lodging, hours, and local conditions before driving.

Current source: route20roadtrip.com/states/idaho/



Montana

The Montana Route 20 story is not a normal statewide crossing. West Yellowstone is the decision point between stopping, entering Yellowstone, or transferring back toward Idaho.

West to east: Idaho -> Island Park -> West Yellowstone -> Yellowstone park day / east-side handoff

Anchor hierarchy

Use the places for the job they do best.

West Yellowstone	Gateway town for lodging, supplies, and the stop-or-continue decision after the park.
Island Park	Quieter forest-and-river transfer west of town when a short Idaho continuation fits.
Ashton	Conventional Idaho town base when the day needs a clearer finish beyond Island Park.

Current source: route20roadtrip.com/states/montana/



SPECIAL PLANNING GAP

Yellowstone is its own route decision

The current Route 20 guide treats Yellowstone separately because the US 20 designation does not continue through the national park.

West side

West Yellowstone is the reset and decision point. Stop, sleep, refuel, and decide whether the next movement is a park day or a shorter Idaho transfer.

East side

Cody is the primary Wyoming gateway base. Wapiti Valley and the East Entrance form the scenic approach to the park boundary.

Do not treat the park like an ordinary highway link

Live planning matters here.

Before entering

- ☐ Confirm the entrance and park-road plan
- ☐ Check closures and construction
- ☐ Check weather and seasonal access
- ☐ Protect daylight and wildlife-traffic margin

Before exiting

- ☐ Know the next overnight or gateway town
- ☐ Confirm fuel / food / lodging needs
- ☐ Do not add a long transfer automatically
- ☐ Use the current state and trip pages for the handoff

This page is intentionally conservative. Use official park and road information for current routing, access, closures, construction, and safety decisions.

Current sources: [Route overview](#) · [Montana](#) · [Wyoming](#)



Wyoming

Wyoming changes from Yellowstone gateway country to the Bighorn Basin, hot-springs country, a major city reset, and the High Plains handoff to Nebraska.

West to east: Yellowstone East Entrance -> Wapiti / Cody -> Greybull / Worland -> Thermopolis -> Shoshoni / Casper -> Glenrock / Lusk -> Nebraska

Anchor hierarchy

Use the places for the job they do best.

Cody	Primary western Wyoming base before or after the Yellowstone approach.
Thermopolis	Destination anchor for hot springs, paleontology, and canyon country.
Casper	Strongest practical city base for museums, river time, supplies, and an overnight.
Lusk	Practical eastern stop before the long Nebraska run.

Current source: route20roadtrip.com/states/wyoming/



CHAPTER 12 - PLANNING NOTES



Plan the Wyoming chapter

Keep selective

Use Greybull, Worland, Shoshoni, and Glenrock as proportional service or junction stops unless one is the purpose of the day.

State-line handoff

Eastbound, leave Lusk ready for the long Nebraska bridge. Westbound, use Cody as the final base before Wapiti Valley and the East Entrance.

Write the state in one sentence

One purpose beats a crowded checklist.

This state matters on my trip because...

Protect the practical decisions

Use current information before departure.

Primary overnight / reset anchor

Backup anchor

One stop worth slowing for

Fuel / food / service note

Weather / road / access check

What gets cut if the day slips

This roadbook is a paper reference, not a live status source. Recheck roads, weather, seasonal access, park routing, lodging, hours, and local conditions before driving.

Current source: route20roadtrip.com/states/wyoming/



Nebraska

Nebraska works best as a paced bridge. Distances can feel longer than they look, so choose a short list of anchors instead of treating every town as an equal stop.

West to east: Wyoming -> Harrison -> Chadron -> Gordon -> Valentine -> Ainsworth -> O'Neill -> Randolph -> South Sioux City -> Iowa

Anchor hierarchy

Use the places for the job they do best.

Harrison	Final / first Nebraska pause at the Wyoming handoff.
Chadron	Strong western history and outdoors anchor with services and overnight logic.
Valentine	Largest Sandhills outdoor and overnight time block.
O'Neill	North-central service and history anchor.
South Sioux City	Missouri River handoff and services directly across from Sioux City.

Current source: route20roadtrip.com/states/nebraska/



CHAPTER 14 - PLANNING NOTES



Plan the Nebraska chapter

Keep selective

Use Gordon, Ainsworth, Randolph, and other smaller towns to divide the drive, eat, refuel, or add one specific local reason to stop.

State-line handoff

Protect range, daylight, and overnight choices before the long Sandhills / Plains chapters. Sioux City and South Sioux City make the eastern river handoff explicit.

Write the state in one sentence

One purpose beats a crowded checklist.

This state matters on my trip because...

Protect the practical decisions

Use current information before departure.

Primary overnight / reset anchor

Backup anchor

One stop worth slowing for

Fuel / food / service note

Weather / road / access check

What gets cut if the day slips

This roadbook is a paper reference, not a live status source. Recheck roads, weather, seasonal access, park routing, lodging, hours, and local conditions before driving.

Current source: route20roadtrip.com/states/nebraska/



CHAPTER 15 - READABLE MIDWEST BACKBONE

Iowa

Iowa has a readable east-west backbone. Treat Sioux City, Fort Dodge, Waterloo / Cedar Falls, and Dubuque as the strongest pacing anchors.

West to east: Nebraska -> Sioux City -> Sac City / Early -> Fort Dodge -> Iowa Falls -> Waterloo / Cedar Falls -> Independence / Manchester / Dyersville -> Dubuque -> Illinois

Anchor hierarchy

Use the places for the job they do best.

Sioux City	Missouri River endpoint, services, culture, and the clearest overnight before Nebraska.
Fort Dodge	Western Iowa anchor for history, outdoor time, services, or an overnight.
Waterloo / Cedar Falls	Paired-city block for museums, downtown time, services, meals, or an overnight.
Dubuque	Mississippi gateway for riverfront orientation, history, services, or an overnight.

Current source: route20roadtrip.com/states/iowa/



CHAPTER 16 - PLANNING NOTES

IA

Plan the Iowa chapter

Keep selective

Use Sac City, Early, Williams, Webster City, Iowa Falls, Independence, Manchester, and Dyersville as purpose-driven pauses.

State-line handoff

At either river, decide whether the state-line city is the overnight or only the handoff. Do not turn the whole state into one rushed day.

Write the state in one sentence

One purpose beats a crowded checklist.

This state matters on my trip because...

Protect the practical decisions

Use current information before departure.

Primary overnight / reset anchor

Backup anchor

One stop worth slowing for

Fuel / food / service note

Weather / road / access check

What gets cut if the day slips

This roadbook is a paper reference, not a live status source. Recheck roads, weather, seasonal access, park routing, lodging, hours, and local conditions before driving.

Current source: route20roadtrip.com/states/iowa/



Illinois

Illinois shifts from Mississippi River heritage towns to larger northern Illinois anchors and then Chicago-scale logistics.

West to east: Iowa -> East Dubuque / Galena -> Elizabeth / Stockton / Lena -> Freeport -> Rockford -> Belvidere / Elgin -> Chicago approach -> Indiana

Anchor hierarchy

Use the places for the job they do best.

Galena	Heritage linger; give it extra time when history and walking are the point.
Freeport	Corridor anchor connecting the western county sequence with Rockford.
Rockford	Practical reset for services, a meal, an overnight, or a change of pace.
Chicago approach	Largest-scale logistics in the state; make urban decisions early.

Current source: route20roadtrip.com/states/illinois/



CHAPTER 18 - PLANNING NOTES



Plan the Illinois chapter

Keep selective

Use East Dubuque for river-crossing orientation and smaller Jo Daviess / Stephenson towns for measured local stops rather than a checklist.

State-line handoff

Eastbound, decide whether Chicago is a destination block or a pass-through before Indiana. Westbound, let Galena and East Dubuque set the Mississippi rhythm.

Write the state in one sentence

One purpose beats a crowded checklist.

This state matters on my trip because...

Protect the practical decisions

Use current information before departure.

Primary overnight / reset anchor

Backup anchor

One stop worth slowing for

Fuel / food / service note

Weather / road / access check

What gets cut if the day slips

This roadbook is a paper reference, not a live status source. Recheck roads, weather, seasonal access, park routing, lodging, hours, and local conditions before driving.

Current source: route20roadtrip.com/states/illinois/



Indiana

Indiana shifts quickly from the Chicago industrial edge and Dunes country into an inland chain of cities and small towns.

West to east: Illinois -> Gary / Dunes -> Michigan City / La Porte -> South Bend -> Elkhart / Middlebury -> LaGrange / Angola -> Ohio

Anchor hierarchy

Use the places for the job they do best.

Chesterton / Dunes gateway	Pair one downtown or Dunes-side priority with the western entry.
Michigan City	Lake-adjacent anchor for culture, services, or an overnight.
South Bend	Strong city and overnight anchor for museums, campus, food, and services.
Elkhart	Eastern city anchor for downtown, museums, riverfront, or practical services.
Angola	Northeast Indiana approach and the final larger pause before Ohio.

Current source: route20roadtrip.com/states/indiana/



CHAPTER 20 - PLANNING NOTES



Plan the Indiana chapter

Keep selective

Gary, La Porte, Middlebury, New Carlisle, and LaGrange work best when they solve a specific route, meal, service, or local-interest need.

State-line handoff

Make lakefront choices early on the west side. On the east side, keep the quieter inland chain moving toward Angola and the Ohio line.

Write the state in one sentence

One purpose beats a crowded checklist.

This state matters on my trip because...

Protect the practical decisions

Use current information before departure.

Primary overnight / reset anchor

Backup anchor

One stop worth slowing for

Fuel / food / service note

Weather / road / access check

What gets cut if the day slips

This roadbook is a paper reference, not a live status source. Recheck roads, weather, seasonal access, park routing, lodging, hours, and local conditions before driving.

Current source: route20roadtrip.com/states/indiana/



CHAPTER 21 - LONG GREAT LAKES STATE

Ohio

Ohio is long and varied. Choose one major anchor per travel zone and keep lakefront detours or smaller-town history selective.

West to east: Indiana -> Toledo / Maumee -> Perrysburg / Fremont / Bellevue / Norwalk -> Oberlin -> Cleveland -> Geneva / Ashtabula / Conneaut -> Pennsylvania

Anchor hierarchy

Use the places for the job they do best.

Toledo	Western city anchor for a protected city block, food, services, or an overnight.
Oberlin	College-town anchor for culture, downtown time, or a focused half day.
Cleveland	Major city reset; museums, food, events, or an overnight deserve real time.
Ashtabula	Principal eastern anchor for harbor time, food, history, or an overnight.
Conneaut	Final Ohio pause before Pennsylvania.

Current source: route20roadtrip.com/states/ohio/



CHAPTER 22 - PLANNING NOTES



Plan the Ohio chapter

Keep selective

Use Perrysburg, Fremont, Bellevue, Norwalk, Mentor, and Geneva to add one focused history, town, or lake-country choice rather than stacking everything.

State-line handoff

The western entry belongs to the Toledo zone. The eastern exit belongs to Ashtabula / Conneaut and the short Pennsylvania lake corridor.

Write the state in one sentence

One purpose beats a crowded checklist.

This state matters on my trip because...

Protect the practical decisions

Use current information before departure.

Primary overnight / reset anchor

Backup anchor

One stop worth slowing for

Fuel / food / service note

Weather / road / access check

What gets cut if the day slips

This roadbook is a paper reference, not a live status source. Recheck roads, weather, seasonal access, park routing, lodging, hours, and local conditions before driving.

Current source: route20roadtrip.com/states/ohio/



Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania is short but choice-heavy. Erie is the dominant anchor; Girard and North East stay proportional, while lakefront and grape-country travel are deliberate detours.

West to east: Ohio -> Girard -> Erie -> North East -> New York

Anchor hierarchy

Use the places for the job they do best.

Girard	Brief western stop for historic Main Street, food, or parks.
Erie	Primary state anchor for city time, bayfront, services, lodging, or a selected Presque Isle block.
North East	Eastern decision point for village time, railroad history, or one grape-country direction.

Current source: route20roadtrip.com/states/pennsylvania/



CHAPTER 24 - LONG MULTI-CHAPTER EASTERN CROSSING

New York

New York needs several distinct chapters even at a brisk pace: Lake Erie villages, western Finger Lakes, rights-history country, central lake towns, rural eastern valleys, and Albany.

West to east: Pennsylvania -> Westfield / Fredonia -> Canandaigua -> Seneca Falls / Auburn -> Skaneateles / Cazenovia -> Cherry Valley / Sharon Springs -> Albany -> Massachusetts

Anchor hierarchy

Use the places for the job they do best.

Fredonia	Strong western base for the Lake Erie villages.
Canandaigua	Primary western Finger Lakes destination for downtown, lakefront, gardens, dining, and an overnight.
Auburn	Deep history anchor with multiple sites and services.
Skaneateles	Leisure stop or overnight for lakeside walking and dining.
Sharon Springs	Quieter rural overnight option.
Albany	Final city anchor for state history, downtown, river, services, and the Massachusetts handoff.

Current source: route20roadtrip.com/states/new-york/



CHAPTER 25 - PLANNING NOTES



Plan the New York chapter

Keep selective

Keep Cooperstown a deliberate major detour. Smaller Genesee Valley and central villages work best when one local reason earns the stop.

State-line handoff

Do not stack every lake, historic site, and detour. Choose one meaningful stop per section and use a short list of overnight anchors.

Write the state in one sentence

One purpose beats a crowded checklist.

This state matters on my trip because...

Protect the practical decisions

Use current information before departure.

Primary overnight / reset anchor

Backup anchor

One stop worth slowing for

Fuel / food / service note

Weather / road / access check

What gets cut if the day slips

This roadbook is a paper reference, not a live status source. Recheck roads, weather, seasonal access, park routing, lodging, hours, and local conditions before driving.

Current source: route20roadtrip.com/states/new-york/



Massachusetts

Massachusetts changes character repeatedly. Use cities as major resets, smaller towns as selective pauses, and treat Boston / Kenmore as a dedicated urban arrival or launch.

West to east: New York -> Hancock / Pittsfield / Lenox -> Westfield / Springfield -> Sturbridge / Worcester -> MetroWest -> Waltham / Watertown -> Boston / Kenmore

Anchor hierarchy

Use the places for the job they do best.

Pittsfield	Berkshire city anchor for culture, food, services, or an overnight.
Lenox	Berkshire leisure stop for walkable village time, culture, dining, or a slower overnight.
Springfield	City and museum anchor with lodging and practical services.
Sturbridge	Historic-village anchor for a central-state stop or overnight.
Worcester	Central city anchor for museums, dining, services, or an overnight.
Boston / Kenmore	Eastern city block plus the ceremonial Route 20 endpoint; plan traffic, parking, transit, and the endpoint separately.

Current source: route20roadtrip.com/states/massachusetts/



Plan the Massachusetts chapter

Keep selective

Marlborough / Framingham can solve MetroWest lodging and service needs; Waltham and Watertown can carry the final suburban / river approach.

State-line handoff

At the eastern end, endpoint logistics are part of the trip. Give Kenmore a deliberate arrival or launch instead of treating it as a casual last stop.

Write the state in one sentence

One purpose beats a crowded checklist.

This state matters on my trip because...

Protect the practical decisions

Use current information before departure.

Primary overnight / reset anchor

Backup anchor

One stop worth slowing for

Fuel / food / service note

Weather / road / access check

What gets cut if the day slips

This roadbook is a paper reference, not a live status source. Recheck roads, weather, seasonal access, park routing, lodging, hours, and local conditions before driving.

Current source: route20roadtrip.com/states/massachusetts/



WHOLE-ROUTE PACING

Build the crossing around reset anchors, not mileage alone

Travel band	Useful reset logic	What to protect
Pacific + interior West	Newport / Corvallis, Bend, Boise / Caldwell, Rexburg / Idaho Falls, Island Park / West Yellowstone.	Mountain passes, long open-country runs, fuel / food, and a clean park-side stop-or-continue decision.
Yellowstone + High Plains	Cody, Thermopolis, Casper, Valentine, Chadron, Sioux City / South Sioux City.	Park routing, basin and Plains pacing, service gaps, daylight, and overnight margins.
Midwest	Fort Dodge, Waterloo / Cedar Falls, Dubuque, Galena / Rockford, Chicago side, South Bend / Elkhart.	River handoffs, city logistics, one strong heritage block, and Dunes / lakefront choices that do not crowd the drive.
Great Lakes + Northeast	Toledo, Cleveland, Ashtabula / Erie, Canandaigua / Auburn / Albany, Pittsfield / Springfield / Worcester, Boston.	Large-city time blocks, selected lake detours, New York chapter pacing, and final Boston / Kenmore logistics.

My longest state chapter

Where do I need a second overnight or a slower day?

My biggest city decision

Is it a destination block, an overnight, or a pass-through?

A good whole-route plan can still leave blank days. Use state chapters to create structure, then let current conditions and real energy decide how much gets added.



Write the state handoffs before the trip gets complicated

Direction + endpoints

Direction

Start / launch

Finish / endpoint

Trip constraint

Available days

Longest acceptable drive day

What matters most

Four handoff notes

Write the decisions most likely to break the plan.

Oregon / Idaho

Yellowstone / Wyoming

Plains / Midwest

Great Lakes / Northeast

If the schedule slips, cut an optional detour before cutting fuel, rest, a safe overnight, or the time needed for a major city / park decision.



CURRENT SOURCES + DEPARTURE CHECK

Use the live Route20RoadTrip guide before driving

Final current-condition checks

- ☐ Roadwork and closures
- ☐ Weather and wildfire / smoke where relevant
- ☐ Mountain-pass and seasonal-access conditions
- ☐ Yellowstone entrance and park-road status
- ☐ Lodging confirmation
- ☐ Business / attraction hours
- ☐ Parking and major-city access
- ☐ Fuel, food, and offline navigation plan

The roadbook is downstream from the live guide. If the paper and the current site disagree, use the current source and official local / road / park information.



Route overview

Current whole-route orientation and handoffs.

State source directory

OR Oregon

route20roadtrip.com/states/oregon/

ID Idaho

route20roadtrip.com/states/idaho/

MT Montana

route20roadtrip.com/states/montana/

WY Wyoming

route20roadtrip.com/states/wyoming/

NE Nebraska

route20roadtrip.com/states/nebraska/

IA Iowa

route20roadtrip.com/states/iowa/

IL Illinois

route20roadtrip.com/states/illinois/

IN Indiana

route20roadtrip.com/states/indiana/

OH Ohio

route20roadtrip.com/states/ohio/

PA Pennsylvania

route20roadtrip.com/states/pennsylvania/

NY New York

route20roadtrip.com/states/new-york/

MA Massachusetts

route20roadtrip.com/states/massachusetts/

Revision: August 2026 · Built from the current Route20RoadTrip route overview and twelve state guides.