

THE CARRY GUY FIREARMS SHOOTING ACADEMY

TRAVELING WITH YOUR SOUTH CAROLINA CWP

A Practical Interstate Carry Field Guide

Reciprocity • Vehicle Travel • Police Encounters • Air Travel • National Parks

SEE • DECIDE • SURVIVE.

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Educational guide only - not legal advice. Laws change frequently.

Read This Before You Travel

This field guide is designed to help a South Carolina CWP holder plan lawful interstate travel. It is not a substitute for current statutes, official agency guidance, or advice from a qualified attorney.

Core rule: Your South Carolina permit does not carry South Carolina law across state lines. The moment you cross a border, the laws of the state you enter control where, how, and whether you may carry.

- Confirm that your exact permit type is recognized. Some states recognize resident permits only or impose minimum-age rules.
- Check prohibited places, signage rules, alcohol restrictions, magazine limits, ammunition restrictions, and local ordinances.
- When a state does not honor your permit, do not assume permitless carry applies to nonresidents. Verify the statute.
- Use this guide as a planning tool, then confirm your route immediately before departure.

Publication date: July 16, 2026. Reciprocity and firearm laws can change through legislation, court decisions, attorney-general action, or agency policy.

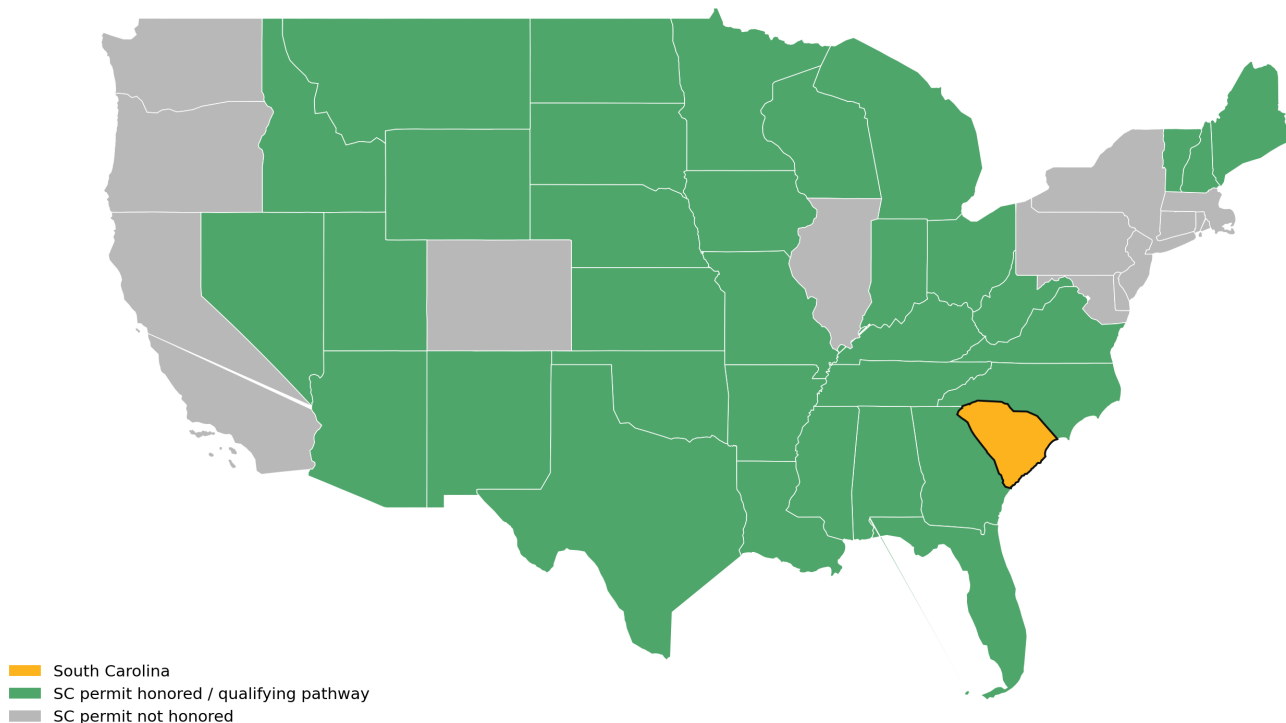
TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	Reciprocity map
4-5	States that recognize the SC CWP
6	States that do not recognize it
7-8	Vehicle travel and federal transport
9	Duty to inform and police encounters
10	Common prohibited places
11	TSA and airline checklist
12	Hotels and temporary lodging
13	National parks and federal property
14	Printable pre-trip checklist
15	Sources and verification

Color-Coded Reciprocity Map

Green states generally recognize a South Carolina CWP or provide a qualifying lawful pathway for an eligible traveler. Gold marks South Carolina. Gray states do not recognize the SC permit. Always verify resident-only and age restrictions.

South Carolina CWP Travel Recognition - Verify Before Every Trip



Important: “Permit honored” and “permitless carry” are not identical. A permit may provide advantages for school-zone exceptions, age eligibility, vehicle carry, or interactions with law enforcement even where permitless carry exists.

Map categories are a travel-planning summary, not a legal determination. Review the destination state's official law before carrying.

States That Recognize the South Carolina CWP

The following 35 destination states are commonly listed as recognizing a South Carolina permit or allowing a qualifying South Carolina traveler to carry. Asterisks indicate important age, resident-permit, permitless-carry, or permit-type conditions that must be checked.

State	Travel note
Alabama	Verify current carry locations and vehicle rules.
Alaska	Conditional: verify resident-only, age, permit type, or permitless-carry requirements.
Arizona	Conditional: verify resident-only, age, permit type, or permitless-carry requirements.
Arkansas	Verify current carry locations and vehicle rules.
Florida	Conditional: verify resident-only, age, permit type, or permitless-carry requirements.
Georgia	Conditional: verify resident-only, age, permit type, or permitless-carry requirements.
Idaho	Verify current carry locations and vehicle rules.
Indiana	Verify current carry locations and vehicle rules.
Iowa	Conditional: verify resident-only, age, permit type, or permitless-carry requirements.
Kansas	Conditional: verify resident-only, age, permit type, or permitless-carry requirements.
Kentucky	Conditional: verify resident-only, age, permit type, or permitless-carry requirements.
Louisiana	Conditional: verify resident-only, age, permit type, or permitless-carry requirements.
Maine	Conditional: verify resident-only, age, permit type, or permitless-carry requirements.
Michigan	Conditional: verify resident-only, age, permit type, or permitless-carry requirements.
Minnesota	Verify current carry locations and vehicle rules.
Mississippi	Conditional: verify resident-only, age, permit type, or permitless-carry requirements.
Missouri	Conditional: verify resident-only, age, permit type, or permitless-carry requirements.
Montana	Verify current carry locations and vehicle rules.
Nebraska	Conditional: verify resident-only, age, permit type, or permitless-carry requirements.
Nevada	Verify current carry locations and vehicle rules.
New Hampshire	Verify current carry locations and vehicle rules.
New Mexico	Verify current carry locations and vehicle rules.
North Carolina	Verify current carry locations and vehicle rules.
North Dakota	Verify current carry locations and vehicle rules.
Ohio	Conditional: verify resident-only, age, permit type, or permitless-carry requirements.
Oklahoma	Conditional: verify resident-only, age, permit type, or permitless-carry requirements.
South Dakota	Verify current carry locations and vehicle rules.
Tennessee	Conditional: verify resident-only, age, permit type, or permitless-carry requirements.
Texas	Conditional: verify resident-only, age, permit type, or permitless-carry requirements.
Utah	Conditional: verify resident-only, age, permit type, or permitless-carry requirements.

State	Travel note
Vermont	Permitless carry state; Vermont does not issue permits. Verify age and prohibited places.
Virginia	Verify current carry locations and vehicle rules.
West Virginia	Conditional: verify resident-only, age, permit type, or permitless-carry requirements.
Wisconsin	Verify current carry locations and vehicle rules.
Wyoming	Conditional: verify resident-only, age, permit type, or permitless-carry requirements.

Recognition Conditions That Matter

- **Resident-only recognition:** Some states may honor only a South Carolina resident permit. A nonresident SC permit may not qualify.
- **Minimum age:** A destination may require the traveler to be 21 even though South Carolina permits or permitless carry may apply at a younger age.
- **Permitless carry:** The traveler may be legal because of the destination state's permitless-carry law rather than because the SC permit is recognized.
- **Enhanced permits:** Some jurisdictions distinguish standard and enhanced permits. Confirm which credential is accepted.
- **Local restrictions:** Preemption rules differ. Cities, counties, parks, transit systems, and public events may impose additional restrictions where state law permits.

Best practice: open the destination state's official attorney general, state police, or licensing-agency page. Save a current copy or screenshot before departure.

Fast Verification Questions

- Does this state honor a South Carolina *resident* permit?
- Must I be 21?
- Is permitless carry available to nonresidents?
- Must the handgun remain concealed?
- Are there magazine or ammunition restrictions?
- Does a "No Firearms" sign have force of law?
- Can I carry in a restaurant that serves alcohol?
- Must I notify an officer immediately?

States That Do Not Recognize the SC CWP

Do not carry concealed merely because you possess a South Carolina permit. Some of these jurisdictions may offer limited vehicle transport, permitless open carry in narrow circumstances, or a nonresident licensing process - but the SC permit itself is not authority to carry.

State / jurisdiction	Planning instruction
California	Unload, secure, and verify destination-specific transport law before entry.
Colorado	Unload, secure, and verify destination-specific transport law before entry.
Connecticut	Unload, secure, and verify destination-specific transport law before entry.
Delaware	Unload, secure, and verify destination-specific transport law before entry.
District of Columbia	Unload, secure, and verify destination-specific transport law before entry.
Hawaii	Unload, secure, and verify destination-specific transport law before entry.
Illinois	Unload, secure, and verify destination-specific transport law before entry.
Maryland	Unload, secure, and verify destination-specific transport law before entry.
Massachusetts	Unload, secure, and verify destination-specific transport law before entry.
New Jersey	Unload, secure, and verify destination-specific transport law before entry.
New York	Unload, secure, and verify destination-specific transport law before entry.
Oregon	Unload, secure, and verify destination-specific transport law before entry.
Pennsylvania	Unload, secure, and verify destination-specific transport law before entry.
Rhode Island	Unload, secure, and verify destination-specific transport law before entry.
Washington	Unload, secure, and verify destination-specific transport law before entry.

High-risk routing warning: New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Massachusetts, California, Hawaii, and the District of Columbia have especially restrictive firearm laws. Airline diversions or unexpected overnight stops can create serious legal exposure.

Vehicle Carry: The Safest Planning Framework

- **Recognized-carry state:** If the SC permit is valid there, carry and vehicle storage must still comply with that state’s rules.
- **Non-recognition state:** Default to unloaded, locked, inaccessible transport unless you have confirmed another lawful method.
- **Separate from passenger access:** A trunk is generally preferable. In an SUV or vehicle without a trunk, use a locked case placed as far from occupants as practical.
- **Do not use the glove box or center console** as the locked transport container when relying on the federal interstate-transport provision.
- **Ammunition:** Secure it separately when state law or airline policy requires it. Do not assume a loaded magazine is treated the same everywhere.
- **Stops matter:** The federal safe-passage provision is strongest for continuous travel between places where possession is lawful. Extended stops, sightseeing, or overnight stays can complicate reliance on it.

Federal baseline - 18 U.S.C. § 926A: for lawful travel between lawful origin and destination, the firearm must be unloaded and neither firearm nor ammunition readily accessible. In vehicles without a separate trunk, use a locked container other than the glove compartment or console.

Vehicle Storage Best Practices

Situation	Recommended practice
On-body carry lawful	Keep holstered; avoid unnecessary handling during stops.
Temporary vehicle storage	Use a bolted or cabled lockbox; conceal it from view.
Entering a prohibited place	Disarm discreetly before arrival when lawful; secure in locked container.
Hotel parking	Do not leave a firearm visible or unsecured overnight.
Rental vehicle	Remove all firearms, ammunition, and documents before return.

Police Encounters and Duty to Inform

Notification rules change. Some states require immediate disclosure; others require disclosure only when asked; many impose no affirmative duty. The safest course is to know the exact rule before entry.

Commonly identified immediate-notification jurisdictions on SC travel routes include: Alaska, Arkansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, and Texas. Maine can impose notification duties depending on whether the person is carrying under permitless authority. Verify every state before travel.

Traffic Stop Conduct

- Pull over safely, lower the window, turn on interior lights at night, and keep both hands visible.
- Do not reach toward the firearm, permit, registration, or glove compartment without direction.
- When notification is required, state the fact calmly and ask how the officer wants you to proceed.
- Follow commands. Do not debate reciprocity or roadside legal interpretations.
- Inform the officer before reaching if identification or documents are near the firearm.

Suggested wording: “Officer, I want to let you know that I have a valid South Carolina concealed weapons permit and I am lawfully carrying. The firearm is located [location]. How would you like me to proceed?”

Common Prohibited Places

Restrictions vary by state. The categories below require special attention even when your permit is recognized.

Location	Travel rule
Federal buildings	Generally prohibited, including many visitor centers, ranger stations, courthouses, and government offices.
K-12 schools / school property	Highly regulated; federal and state rules may overlap.
Courthouses and secured government buildings	Generally prohibited and screened.
Post offices and postal property	Federal restrictions apply; parking-lot treatment is legally sensitive.
Airports	Sterile areas and checkpoints are prohibited; checked-baggage procedures are separate.
Bars / alcohol-serving establishments	Rules vary: some prohibit carry, others prohibit only while consuming or above a BAC limit.
Private property with signs	Signage may carry criminal force, civil force, or only become enforceable after notice.
College campuses	Rules vary widely; do not assume a permit authorizes campus carry.
Hospitals / mental-health facilities	Often restricted by statute or posted policy.
Sporting venues / public gatherings	Many states or venues prohibit carry.
Tribal lands	Tribal law controls; state reciprocity may not apply.

TSA and Airline Firearm Checklist

TSA establishes the federal screening baseline. Airlines may impose stricter packaging, ammunition, quantity, and check-in rules.

- ■ Firearm completely unloaded, including chamber and inserted magazine.
- ■ Packed in a locked, hard-sided container as checked baggage only.
- ■ Traveler retains the key or combination unless TSA requests access.
- ■ Declare each firearm to the airline at the ticket counter before screening.
- ■ Use robust locks on every accessible lock point when practical.
- ■ Ammunition secured in original packaging or another airline-approved box designed to hold cartridges.
- ■ Firearm parts and magazines checked in accordance with TSA and airline rules.
- ■ No firearm, ammunition, or prohibited firearm parts in carry-on baggage.
- ■ Verify airline weight limits, ammunition limits, and international rules.
- ■ At destination, retrieve luggage according to airline procedure; inspect immediately for damage or missing items.

Critical: Never bring the locked firearm case to the passenger screening checkpoint. Begin at the airline check-in counter and declare it.

Diversions and Connections

A missed connection, overnight diversion, or forced baggage retrieval in a restrictive jurisdiction may expose the traveler to local possession laws. Ask the airline to retain and transfer checked baggage when possible, and obtain legal guidance before taking possession in a jurisdiction where possession may be unlawful.

Hotels, Motels, and Temporary Lodging

- Hotels are private property and may prohibit firearms through policy or posted notice. State law determines the legal effect.
- Review booking terms and contact the property before arrival when policy is unclear.
- A hotel room may receive some privacy protections similar to a temporary dwelling, but this does not override state law, hotel policy, or prohibited-place statutes.
- Do not rely on a small electronic room safe as the only security method. Use a quality lockbox secured to a substantial object when lawful.
- Prevent unauthorized access by children, guests, housekeeping, or maintenance staff.
- Do not leave a firearm in an unattended vehicle unless necessary and lawfully secured. Theft from vehicles is a major risk.
- When crossing through a non-recognition state, an overnight hotel stay can weaken reliance on federal safe-passage protections. Verify local law before stopping.

Practical rule: the firearm should remain under your direct control or locked against unauthorized access at all times.

Hotel Arrival Questions

- Is the property posted?
- Does hotel policy prohibit firearms?
- Is parking controlled or publicly accessible?
- Will valet staff access the vehicle?
- Can the lockbox be secured inside the room?
- Does the trip enter a restrictive jurisdiction?

National Parks, Forests, and Federal Property

- **National parks:** Possession generally follows the firearm laws of the state and locality where that part of the park is located.
- **Multi-state parks:** Carry legality can change as you cross an internal state boundary.
- **Federal facilities:** Firearms are generally prohibited in NPS buildings such as visitor centers, ranger stations, offices, and fee-collection buildings. Look for posted signs.
- **Discharge:** Possession does not authorize discharge. Discharge is generally prohibited except where specifically authorized.
- **National forests:** State law usually governs possession, but federal facilities and site-specific rules still matter.
- **Army Corps of Engineers property:** Rules can differ from adjacent state land. Verify the specific project before entry.
- **Wildlife refuges:** State law and federal regulations both may apply.

Before visiting, check the specific park unit's "Laws & Policies" page and call the park if the route crosses state lines or includes federal buildings.

Printable Pre-Trip Checklist

Complete this page for every interstate trip involving a firearm.

■	SC CWP is valid and not expired	Initials: _____
■	Driver license address matches permit records where required	Initials: _____
■	Destination recognizes my exact permit type	Initials: _____
■	All transit states reviewed	Initials: _____
■	Minimum-age rules reviewed	Initials: _____
■	Duty-to-inform rules reviewed	Initials: _____
■	Vehicle carry rules reviewed	Initials: _____
■	Prohibited places reviewed	Initials: _____
■	Signage rules reviewed	Initials: _____
■	Restaurant/alcohol rules reviewed	Initials: _____
■	Magazine and ammunition restrictions reviewed	Initials: _____
■	Hotel firearm policy reviewed	Initials: _____
■	National park / federal property rules reviewed	Initials: _____
■	Airline and TSA rules reviewed	Initials: _____
■	Hard-sided case and locks inspected	Initials: _____
■	Ammunition packed correctly	Initials: _____
■	Lockbox available for vehicle/hotel storage	Initials: _____
■	Emergency legal contact saved	Initials: _____
■	Route avoids unnecessary restrictive jurisdictions	Initials: _____
■	Official sources rechecked within 24 hours of departure	Initials: _____

Trip: _____ Departure: _____ Return: _____

States traveled: _____

“Preparation is a decision you make long before the day you need it.” - Curtis R. Harwell

Official Sources and Final Verification

Use official government sources first. Private reciprocity services are useful planning tools but can lag statutory changes.

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED)

<https://www.sled.sc.gov/concealed-weapons-permit>

TSA - Transporting Firearms and Ammunition

<https://www.tsa.gov/travel/transporting-firearms-and-ammunition>

National Park Service - Firearms in National Parks

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/firearms-in-national-parks.htm>

ATF - Interstate transportation guidance (18 U.S.C. 926A)

<https://www.atf.gov/>

USCCA - Reciprocity and state law reference

https://www.usconcealedcarry.com/resources/ccw_reciprocity_map/

Handgunlaw.us - State law summaries

<https://www.handgunlaw.us/>

South Carolina CWP contact: SLED CWP Office, 803-896-7015, CWPquestions@sled.sc.gov

Legal Disclaimer

This publication is educational and is not legal advice. It does not create an attorney-client relationship. Firearm possession, carry, transport, use, storage, magazine capacity, ammunition, prohibited-place, and notification laws vary by jurisdiction and change frequently. The traveler is responsible for confirming current federal, state, local, tribal, airline, airport, hotel, and property rules before travel. When uncertain, do not carry until the law is confirmed by an authoritative source or qualified attorney.

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ARE YOU READY?