



2024

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



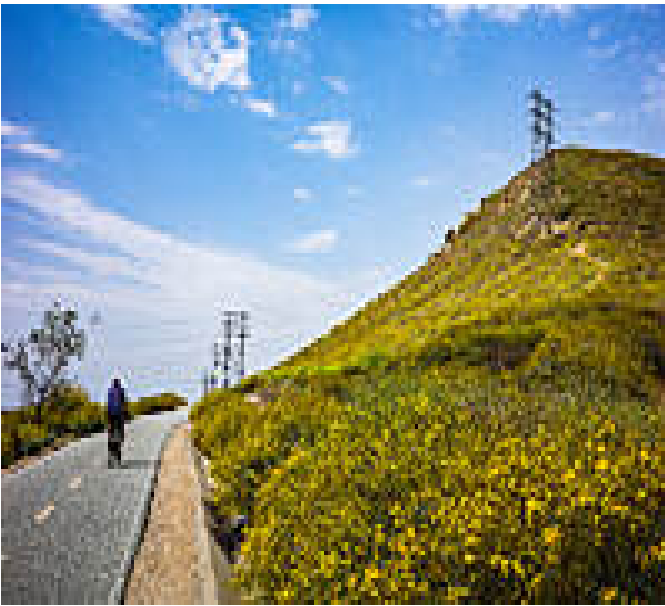
**Santa Ana
River Trail**
California



Santa Ana River Trail

California

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Overview

The Santa Ana River Trail is a colossus in the emerging greater Los Angeles–area trail network. The paved trail covers nearly 60 miles in two sections, including more than 20 miles through San Bernardino and Riverside Counties and another 30 miles running downstream from Corona all the way through Orange County to the Pacific Ocean. A 7-mile segment in the southern section has trails on both sides of the channel for easier access.

The trail is exposed and can get hot, so trail users are warned to dress appropriately, and keep their water bottle full.

About the Route

The northern section, starting on S Waterman Ave. in San Bernardino, hugs the natural channel as it flows out of the mountains. While there's often little more than a trickle in the riverbed because of diversions for groundwater recharge, flash floods can occur in heavy rains through this arid section. The trail passes under most highway crossings, such as the freeway interchange in San Bernardino, for miles of blissfully uninterrupted travel.

From San Bernardino, the atmosphere becomes quiet and rural, with desert-like vegetation. In about 10 miles, the trail passes the base of Riverside's Mount Rubidoux, a park and prominent feature along the trail. The surroundings become more populated over the next 7 or 8 miles until a short but exhilarating downhill section takes trail users to the Hidden Valley Wildlife Area, a 1,500-acre, high-desert wildlife sanctuary. There's a nature center here, as well as overlooks of the wide river channel. Birders and horseback riders frequent the area, as do coyotes.

After a 10- to-12-mile gap, the trail begins again in Corona in far-western Riverside County, where a segment across Prado Dam is slated to open in 2025. Beginning again on Green River Road, the trail enters Orange County, where it runs down a mostly concrete channel to the ocean. Transitioning to an urban trail, it passes through the cities of Anaheim, Orange, Santa Ana, and others.

Along the way, ramps to road crossings allow trail users to exit the channel and explore area dining, shopping, or parkland. In northern Orange County, Yorba Regional Park has 400 picnic tables scattered among the trees and lakesides. The Los Angeles Angels play at the Anaheim stadium complex about 9 miles downriver, and Talbert Regional Park in Costa Mesa features different groupings of vegetation found along the river.

Connections



Santa Ana River Trail

California

States: California

Counties: Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino

Length: 57.7 miles

Trail end points: S Waterman Ave. (San Bernardino) to Arlington Ave. (Riverside) to 4995 Green River Rd (Corona) to Pacific Coast Highway (Huntington Beach)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Concrete

Trail category: Greenway/Non-RT

Trail activities: Bike, Inline Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Horseback

Parking & Trail Access

The Santa Ana River Trail exists in two distinct portions from S Waterman Ave. (San Bernardino) to Arlington Ave. (Riverside) & 4995 Green River Rd (Corona) to Pacific Coast Highway (Huntington Beach), with parking available at both southern endpoints.

Additional parking can be found at:

- 1403 S La Cadena Dr (Colton)
- Martha McLean-Anza Narrows Park, 5759 Jurupa Ave (Riverside)
- Regional Transportation Intermodal Center, 5505 Santa Ana River Trail (Anaheim)

There are numerous parking options for this trail, see [TrailLink Map](#) for all options and detailed directions.



Santa Ana River Trail

California



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com