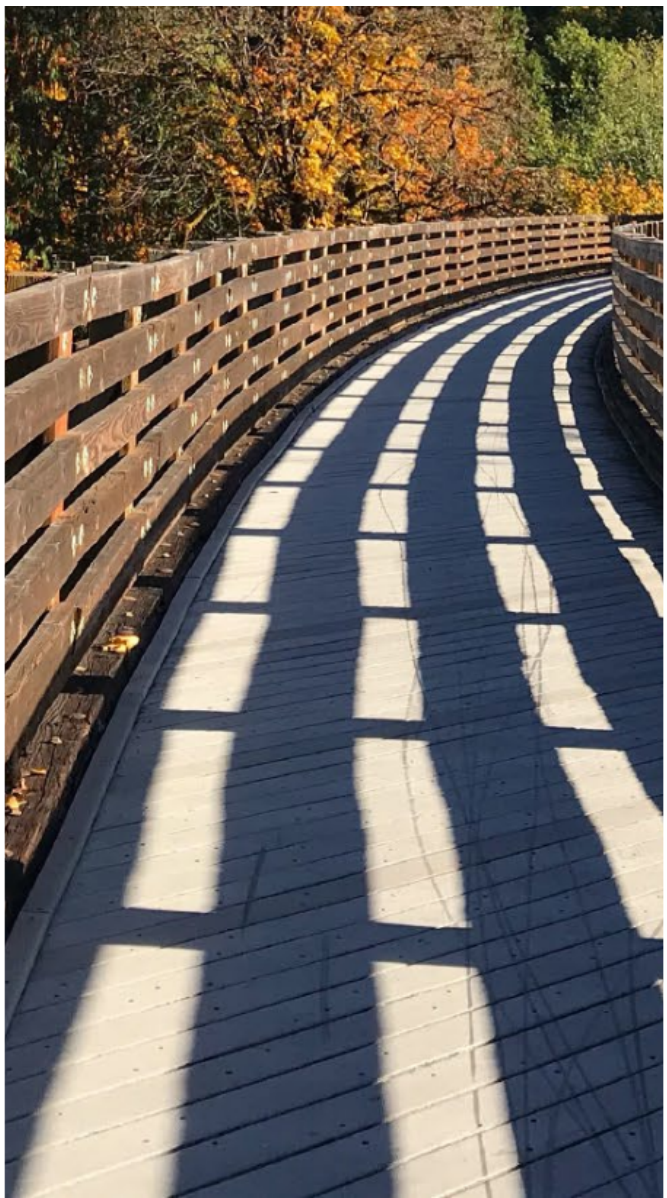
TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

2025

TrailLink Unlimited

Guides



Sacramento Northern Bikeway

California

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Follow the Sacramento Northern Bikeway for a tour of Sacramento and its surrounding communities, weaving through historic

Follow the Sacramento Northern Bikeway for a tour of Sacramento and its surrounding communities, weaving through historic neighborhoods and parks and finishing in a scenic rural area. The paved trail also connects with a number of other local and regional trails and serves as a vital community resource for recreation and commuting to work and school. There are numerous shaded areas and rest kiosks along the trail where you might want to take a breather, especially if you're visiting during Sacramento's hot summer.

The trail runs along the former right-of-way of the Sacramento Northern Interurban Railway, which carried passengers between Sacramento and Chico until the line closed in the mid-1940s. Today you can enjoy many of the bridges and structures that were built for the railway.

Begin near downtown Sacramento on C Street between 19th and 20th streets and head north through an industrial area. After about 0.5 mile, you come to a T junction in the trail; bear right and soon cross a trestle bridge over the American River. At the 1-mile mark, you reach another T junction; turn left to merge onto the American River Bike Trail (a.k.a. the Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail).

Immediately after crossing Del Paso Boulevard, you enter Discovery Park, a popular spot for recreational boaters and anglers. Bear right at the first fork, and a small rise carries you onto the raised former rail bed, which offers a nice view of the park and its ponds and waterfowl. Another 0.2 mile down the trail you cross an active rail line. From this point on the trail is straight, smooth, flat, tree-lined and landscaped. You'll pass through an attractive metal archway each time you reach a new neighborhood.

Near the 6-mile mark, the trail heads into an agricultural landscape. You cross a series of bridges and ride under canopies of mature trees, with cattle grazing in pastures on both sides of the trail. Near the 8-mile mark, the trail reaches the Rio Linda Chamber of Commerce and Rio Linda Community Center, which has an adjacent playing field and BMX bike park. The trail continues for another 2 miles, ending at Elverta Road. You can either ride back to the beginning or arrange for a shuttle.

Sacramento Northern Bikeway

California

States: California
Counties: Sacramento
Length: 10.1miles
Trail end points: C St, between 19th St & 20th St (Sacramento) to Rio Linda Blvd & Elverta Rd (Elverta)
Trail surfaces: Asphalt
Trail category: Rail-Trail
Trail activities: Bike,Inline Skating,Wheelchair Accessible,Horseback Riding,Walking

Parking & Trail Access

To reach the Sacramento endpoint, from Interstate 80 Business take the 16th Street exit. (If you are headed eastbound take the 15th Street exit.) Go north on 16th Street, which is a one-way road, to D Street. Go right (east) on D Street to 20th street, and turn left (north) on 20th Street to reach C Street. The trail is located between 19th and 20th Streets on the north side of the road. Ample street parking is available and a large gateway identifies the trailhead.

To reach the Rio Linda endpoint from Interstate 5 in Sacramento, head north on I-5 to its junction with State Route 99. Go right (north) on SR 99 to the Elkhorn Boulevard Exit. Follow Elkhorn Boulevard east to Rio Linda Boulevard and turn left (north), following it to Elverta Road. There is a parking lot at the trailhead on Elverta Road.

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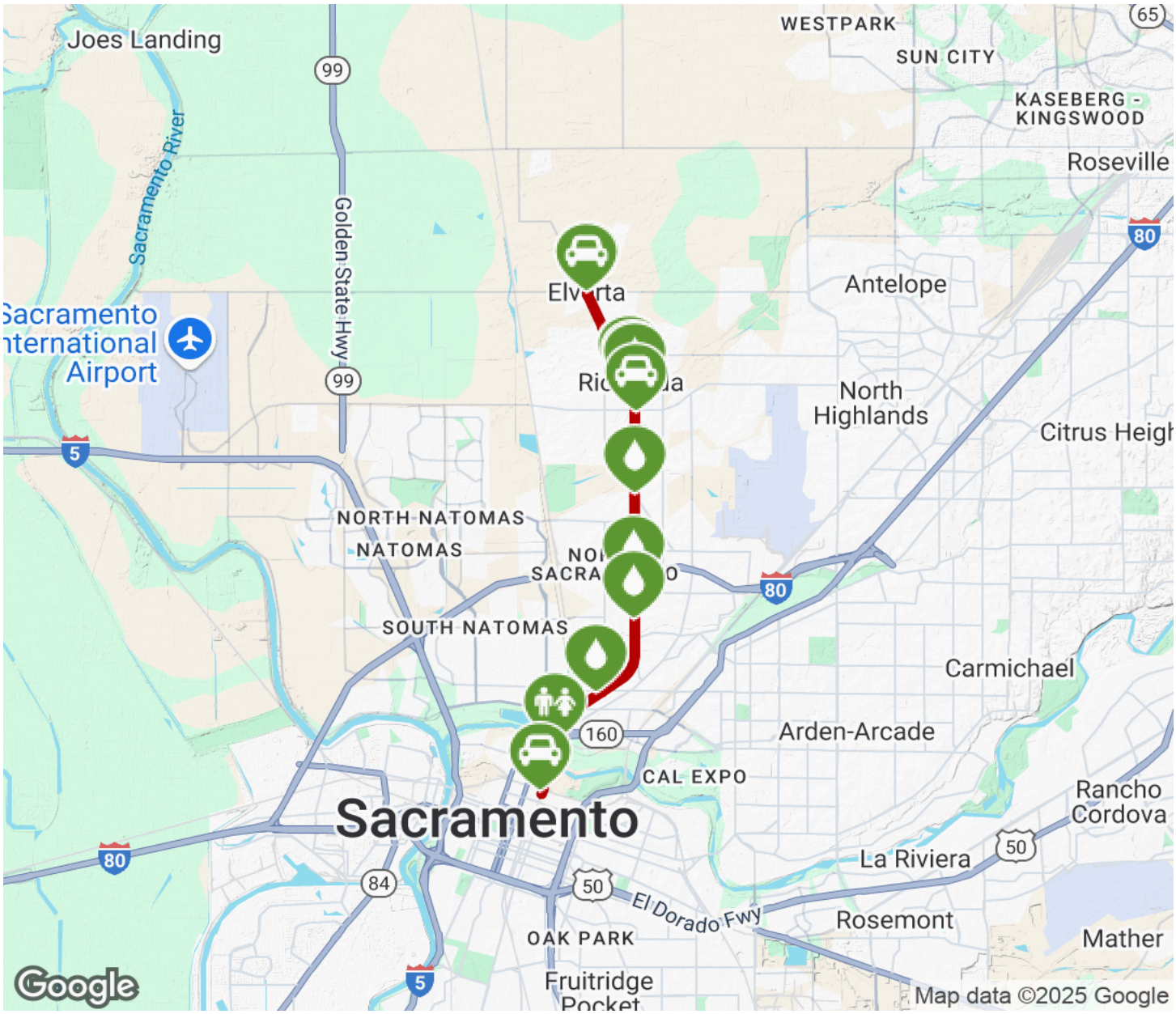

Trailhead | Restroom | Parking | Water Fountain | Tunnel