



2025

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Mineral Belt Trail

Colorado



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The Mineral Belt Trail offers a loop through Leadville, which is tucked into the Rocky Mountains of central Colorado. This paved, high-elevation (10,000+ feet) trail has spectacular views of the Sawatch and Mosquito mountains as it journeys among pine and aspen trees. The trail also provides access to the Leadville National Historic Landmark District and Leadville Mining District.

About the Route

Leadville, as one might deduce from its name, was once a mining boomtown, beginning with the discovery of gold here in 1859. The three former railroads on which portions of the Mineral Belt Trail were built, served these mines, including the trail's namesake Mineral Belt Line. Many historical relics from this era—such as an old

mining tower, ore carts, a mine chute, and other aged equipment—have been placed along the route to serve as an outdoor mining museum. All of these items were donated by locals to honor their community's heritage. Interpretative signage, placed every quarter-mile along the trail, details the riches and risks of the mining industry, shares stories about the city's most memorable inhabitants, and expounds on other interesting historical tidbits.

And railroad history buffs take note: In downtown Leadville, just a half mile from the trailhead at Ice Palace Park, you'll find the depot to board the Leadville, Colorado & Southern Railroad, a scenic excursion train ride, on which the conductor tells the history of the region's railroads and the city. As you pedal along the trail, you'll be able to glimpse its tracks—and even the train itself, if your timing is right—along the northeastern part of the trail loop.

The rail trail has an average grade of 3 percent with a maximum grade of 5 percent. Beginning at Ice Palace Park, which is between Mile Marker 1 and 2, and traveling in a clockwise direction, trail users will have a gentle but steady climb to Mile Marker 5, and then enjoy a rewarding downhill ride to the trail's end. When planning a trip on this trail, also note that there are few restrooms and water fountains along the way, so plan accordingly.

In winter, the Mineral Belt Trail is groomed for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and riding on snow with fat tire bikes.



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States: Colorado

Counties: Lake

Length: 11.6 miles

Trail end points: 1005 Harrison Ave.
(Leadville) to 999 US-24 (Leadville)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Walking, Cross
Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Mineral Belt Trail runs in a loop around Leadville, Colorado.

Parking is available at:

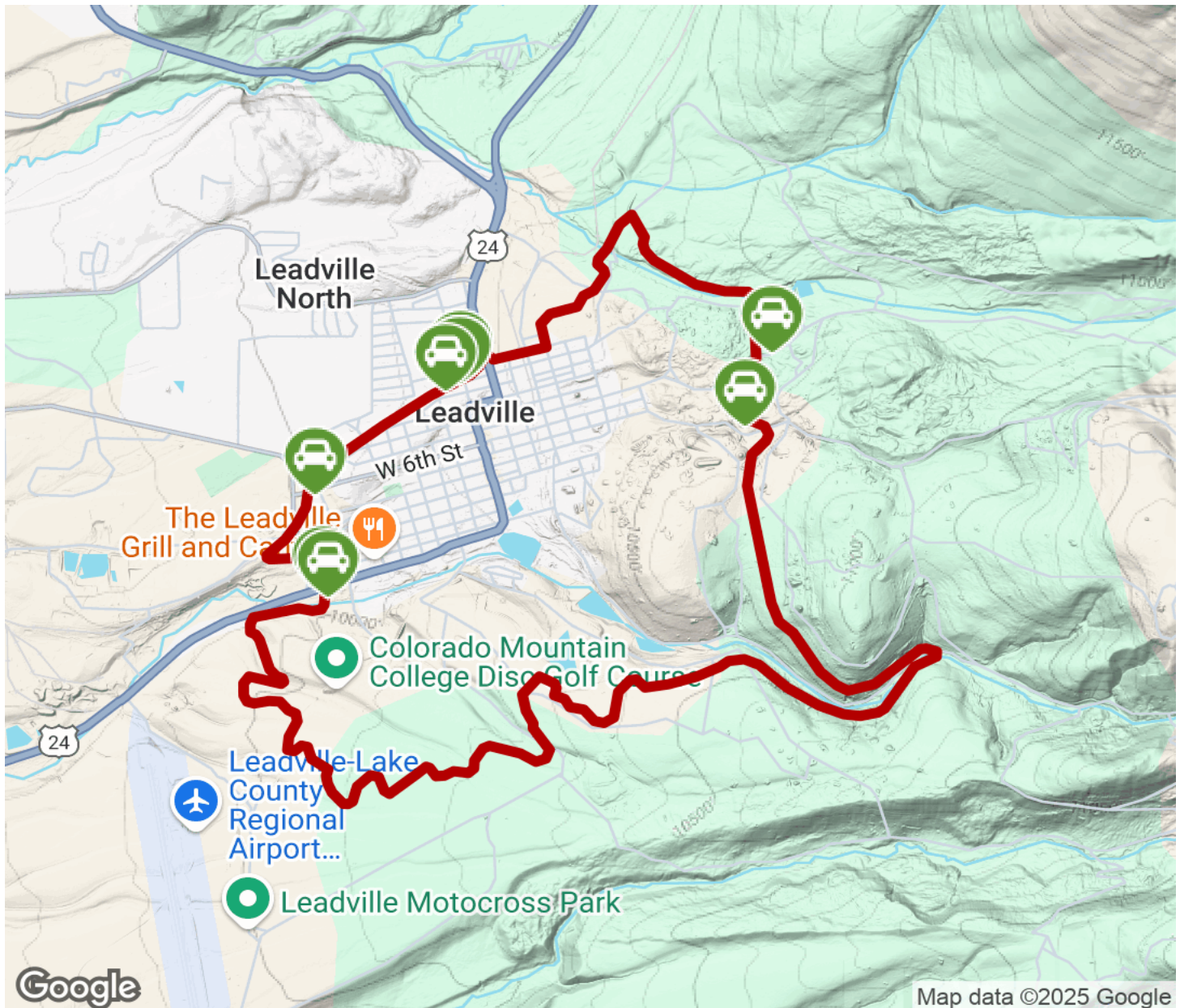
- 1005 Harrison Ave. (Leadville)
- 999 US-24 (Leadville)

Please see [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



Mineral Belt Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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