



2025

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Longleaf  
Trace**  
*Mississippi*



## Longleaf Trace

Mississippi

*Stretching 44 miles northwest from Chain Park, which is nestled along the Leaf River in Hattiesburg, to small-town Prentiss, the*



Stretching 44 miles northwest from Chain Park, which is nestled along the Leaf River in Hattiesburg, to small-town Prentiss, the Longleaf Trace traverses landscapes that range from the bustling heart of Mississippi's third largest city to the rural farmland that predominates in this area.

Eight small covered rest areas along the paved route provide travelers with shade, restrooms, and vending machines, while three small shelters offer places to wait out brief summer rain showers.

### About the Route

Leaving from the southern end of the trail in historical downtown Hattiesburg, trail users should note that there are no amenities at that trail terminus.

As the trail leaves Hattiesburg and heads northwest, the route progresses through a range of quintessentially Southern landscapes, from piney woods and wetlands to small lakes and charming towns. In the first few miles, the route also crosses several bridges and traverses tunnels. In Epley, 15 miles northwest, the trail meets a dirt equestrian path that zigzags across the Trace some 25 miles to Carson.

Thirty-three miles out, just past Bassfield, is a stable, while 2 miles farther is a primitive camping site. The rolling hills that define this section may pose a challenge to less experienced cyclists. While the grades aren't particularly steep, factor them in if you're on a day trip or traveling with small children.

At the trail's end in downtown Prentiss, an attractive trailhead provides restrooms, parking, and vending machines. If you've chosen to end your trip in Hattiesburg instead, consider renting a canoe and plunging into Black Creek, a National Scenic River about 10 miles south of the Southern Miss gateway. Like the Trace itself, the creek will take trail users for a gentle, slow-moving ramble through central Mississippi's piney woods.

### Trail History

A designated National Recreation Trail, the Longleaf Trace runs atop a stretch of Mississippi Central Railroad line that saw much activity as the region's timber industry flourished between the late 1800s and 1920s. As the industry began to fade, so too did the need for the rail service, and although the railroad struggled into the 1970s, it eventually ceased to be economically viable. Fortunately, a concerted effort by local groups and individuals preserved the corridor, and in 2000 it opened as a trail.



**TrailLink**  
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

**TrailLink.com**



## Longleaf Trace

Mississippi

**States:** Mississippi

**Counties:** Forrest, Jefferson Davis, Lamar

Length: 44 miles

**Trail end points:** Front St. (Prentiss) to Chain Park, 5619 Hwy 42 (Hattiesburg)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike, Inline Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Horseback Riding, Walking

## Parking & Trail Access

The Longleaf Trace runs between Front St. (Prentiss) and Chain Park, 5619 Hwy 42 (Hattiesburg).

Parking is also available at:

- 742 Old Hwy 42 E (Bassfield)
- 1 Epley Rd. (Sumrall)
- 2895 W 4th St. (Hattiesburg)

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



**TrailLink**  
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

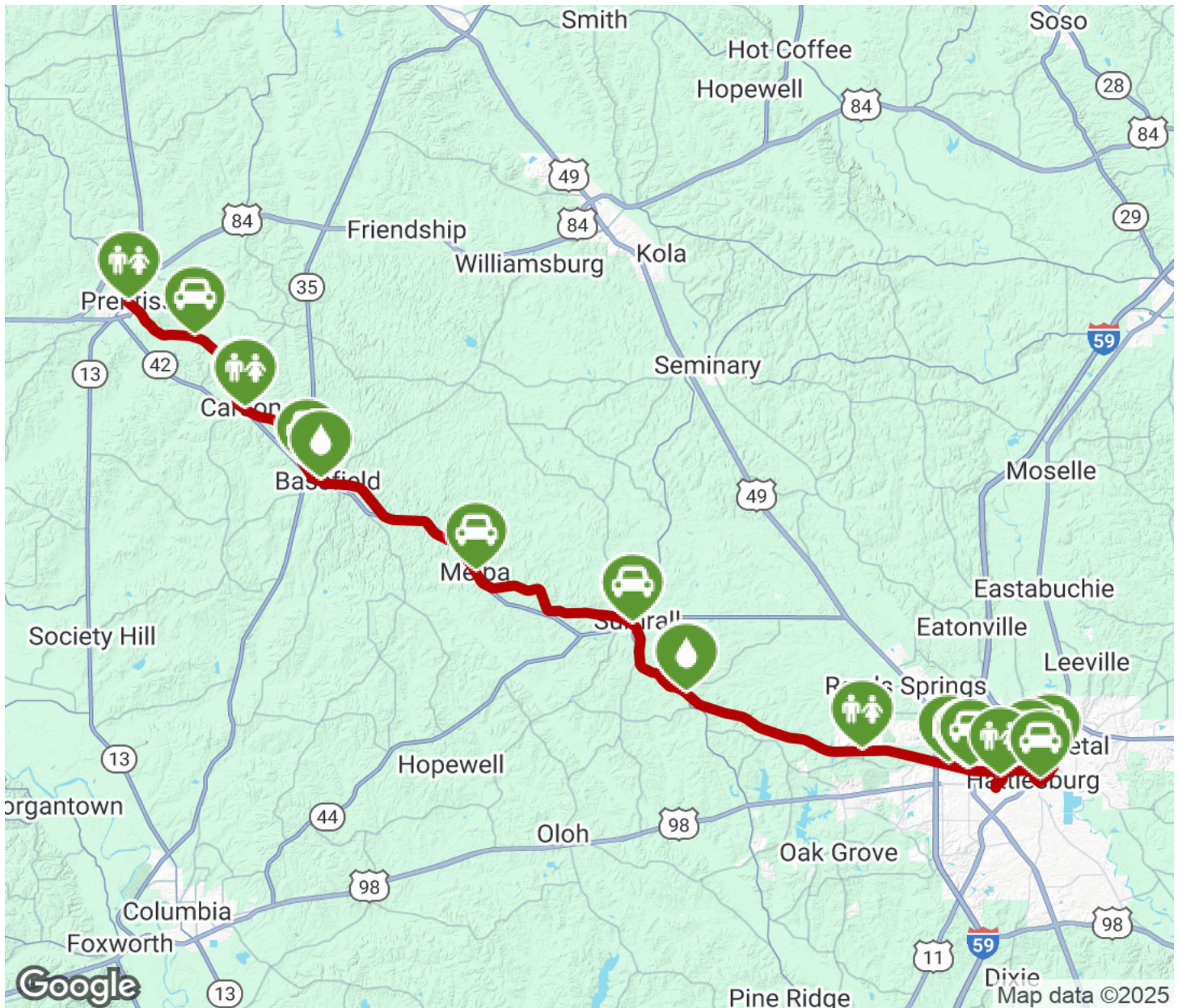
**TrailLink.com**





# Longleaf Trace

Mississippi



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



**TrailLink**  
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

**TrailLink.com**