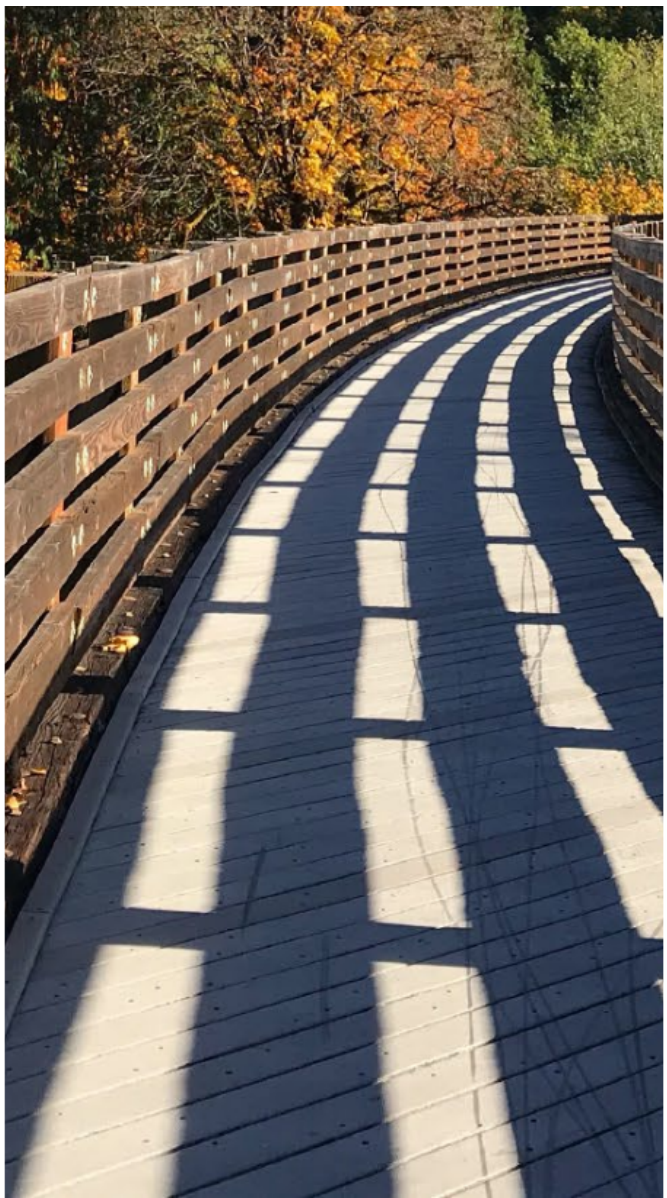
TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

2025

TrailLink Unlimited

Guides



Omaha Trail

Wisconsin

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The 12-mile Omaha Trail passes through a wonderland of towering buttes, mesas, and pinnacles that seem more at home in an arid desert than in fertile farmland. The steep sandstone formations, some 100–200 feet high, served as landmarks for early pioneers traveling through Wisconsin. They have names like Lookout Tower, Castle Rock, and Twin Bluffs. The trail skirts them as you leave Camp Douglas bound for the Elroy trailhead, passing through a tunnel midway.

The Omaha Trail is maintained by Juneau County, which sealed the loose screened-limestone surface usually found on state rail trails. Although it is built to be smoother than gravel, watch for cracks and potholes that have developed over the years.

About the Route

Leaving from the trail's northern endpoint in Camp Douglas, an old logging town that's now home to Volk Field Air National Guard base, the trail heads south to the first and only town on the trail at 2.8 miles. Hustler has a pleasant public park right near the trail.

Trail users will probably notice that the grade increases after leaving Hustler and climbing past the weathered bluffs that are unlike anything east of the Mississippi River. The trail gains 200 feet over the next 4 miles, arriving at an 875-foot-long tunnel at the summit. The only other trails in Wisconsin with tunnels are the Elroy-Sparta and Badger State Trails. A small park just before the tunnel's domed entrance provides restrooms and water and a sign encouraging bicyclists to dismount.

Leaving the tunnel, it's all downhill for the next 5.4 miles to the town of Elroy. The trail crosses more than a dozen bridges and passes through a dense forest where you might spot white-tailed deer. Closer to Elroy the valley widens, and the trail returns to farm country.

The trail reaches its southern end at the north end of Elroy, where the trail empties onto Second Main Street.

Connections

In Elroy, the 400 State Trail can be found just a half block to the left and the Elroy-Sparta State Trail is one block to the right at the Main Street intersection. The 400 State Trail passes Elroy Commons Trail Shop, which serves as a trailhead for all three trails; here you'll find parking, an information center, and bike rentals.

NOTE: A Juneau County Trail Pass ($10 annually/$2 daily) is required for bicyclists ages 18 and older on the Omaha Trail. The passes are available at Home Front Travel Mart

Omaha Trail

Wisconsin

States: Wisconsin
Counties: Juneau
Length: 12miles
Trail end points: 231 Washburn St. (Camp Douglas) to 2nd Main St. (Elroy)
Trail surfaces: Asphalt,Gravel
Trail category: Rail-Trail
Trail activities: Bike,Fishing,Mountain Biking,Snowmobiling,Walking,Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Omaha Trail runs between 231 Washburn St. (Camp Douglas), where parking is available, and 2nd Main St. (Elroy).

Parking is also available at:

- 303 Railroad St. (Elroy)

See TrailLink Map for all parking options and detailed directions.

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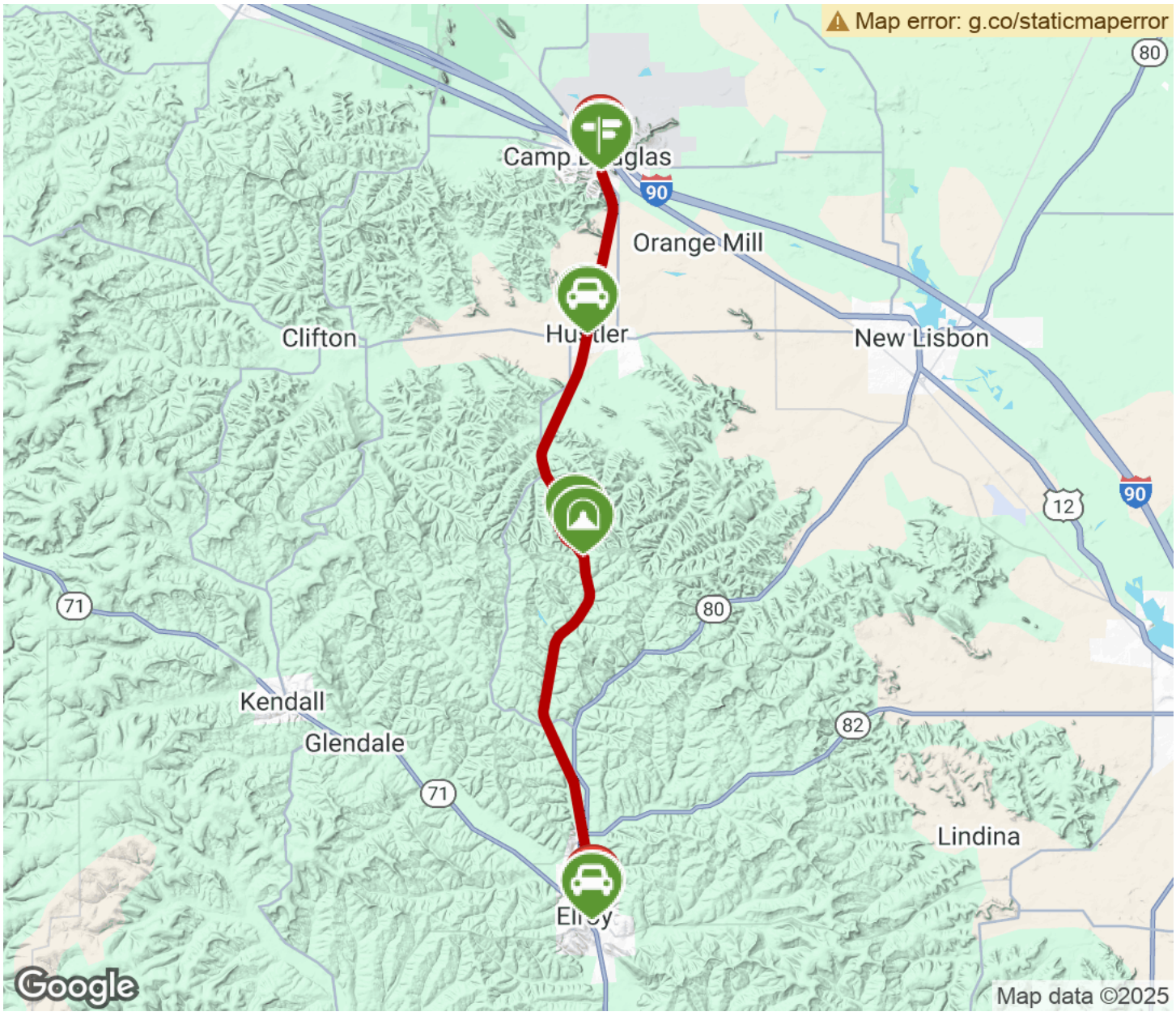

Trailhead Restroom Parking Water Fountain Tunnel

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