



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**El Dorado
Trail**
California



El Dorado Trail

California

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Passing through California's historic Gold Rush country, the El Dorado Trail runs more than 35 miles from Camino west to the line between El Dorado and Sacramento counties, just south of Folsom. The route follows two former rail lines, the Southern Pacific Railroad and Michigan-California Railroad.

About the Route

For 8.5 miles on its eastern end—from the eastern endpoint in Camino to Placerville, where the trail winds through the Sierra Nevada foothills—it is largely paved and can be enjoyed on road bikes. The eastern section of the trail comes to an end here in Placerville, but the western section picks back up just 1 mile to the west on the other side of Placerville. For the remaining 27 miles —

from Placerville to the western endpoint in White Rock—the trail has a single-track, dirt surface best suited for mountain bikers, hikers, and equestrians.

A small section of the railroad tracks in the corridor is still in occasional use, although gravel has been placed between the ties to make mountain biking easier. The El Dorado County Historical Museum operates excursion trains on the El Dorado Western Railroad on Sundays between the Shingle Springs Depot (4241 Mother Lode Drive) and the El Dorado Station (6000 Oriental Street).

In Placerville, trail users can easily hop off the trail to enter downtown and enjoy the historical buildings and charms of an old gold-rush town. A highlight of the trail in this area is the breathtaking Weber Creek trestle that dates back to 1903 and towers about 100 feet above the creek; it lies just 1 mile east of Missouri Flat Road.

Farther west, trail users can take a break in Shingle Springs, where amenities can be found along Mother Lode Drive with several restaurants within a few blocks. On the south side of the street is Bradford Park, which offers restrooms and covered picnic areas.

From Shingle Springs to the county line, the views are pure Wild West, where goats and cattle roam alongside the trail.



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States: California

Counties: El Dorado

Length: 35.8miles

Trail end points: Payen Rd. (El Dorado Hills) to
El Dorado Fwy. (Camino)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt,Dirt,Gravel

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike,Horseback

Riding,Mountain Biking,Inline

Skating,Walking,Wheelchair Accessible

Parking & Trail Access

El Dorado Trail runs between Payen Rd. (El Dorado Hills) and El Dorado Fwy. (Camino).

Parking is available at:

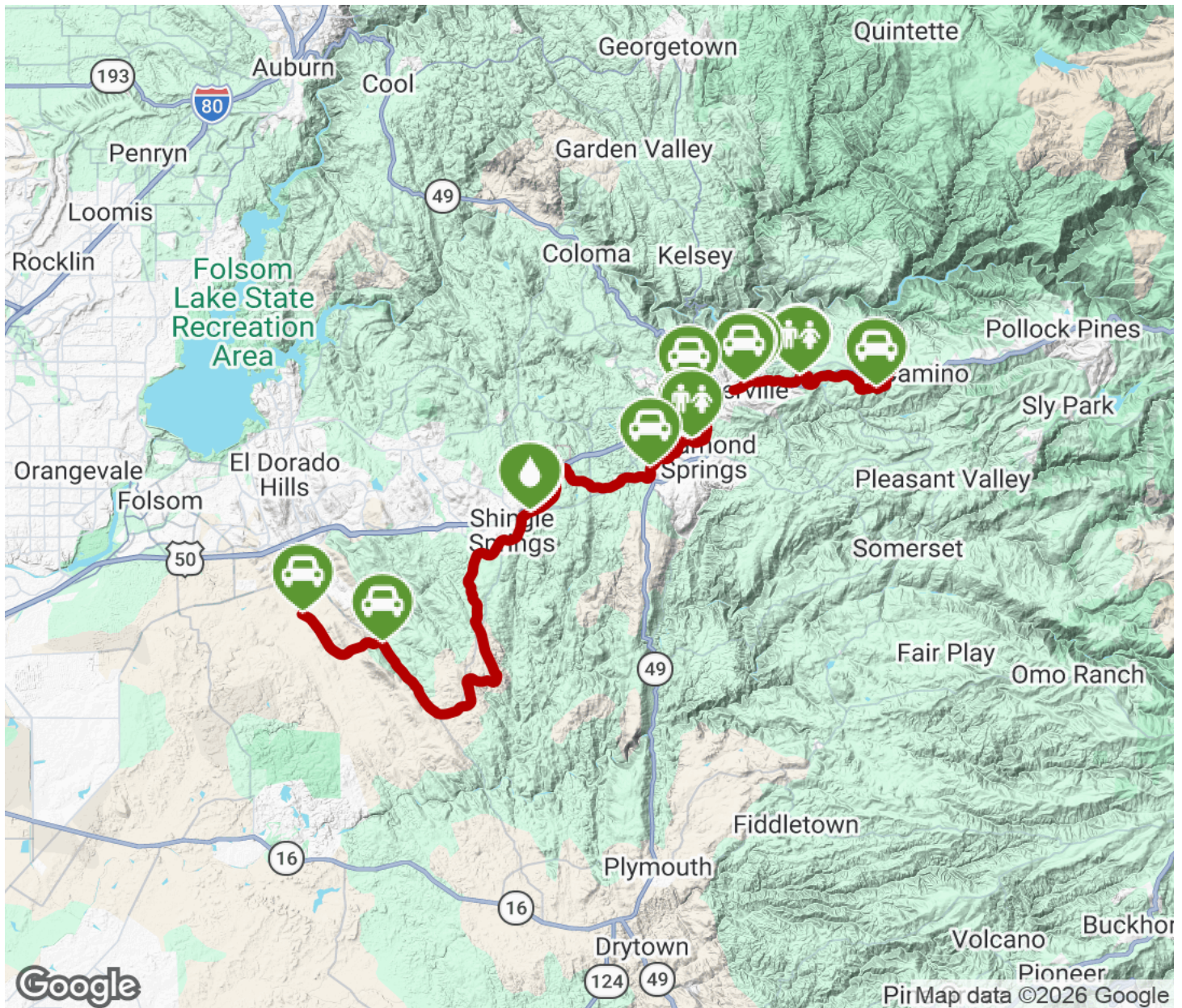
- Bradford Park, 4300 Mother Lode Dr. (Shingle Springs)
- 4415 Missouri Flat Rd (Placerville)
- 2984 Mosquito Rd (Placerville)

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



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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

[TrailLink.com](https://www.TrailLink.com)