



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Richard  
Martin Trail**  
*Alabama*



## Richard Martin Trail

Alabama

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The Richard Martin Trail travels through 10.7 miles of rural northern Alabama countryside. The trail is rural, composed of crushed stone and gravel, and is best suited for mountain biking.

### About the Route

The northern trailhead of the Richard Martin Trail is located just south of the Tennessee line in the historic community of Veto, where an old schoolhouse and a nearby covered picnic area and restrooms form a gateway to the trail. The rough gravel trail winds south through wooded areas and wetlands.

For RV travelers, there is a trailside RV park at mile 2. Trail users will likely encounter horses along the trail, as it is a

favorite among equestrians. Horseback riding is allowed along the entire trail; horseback riders must travel on the far-right side and yield to other trail users. Trail users intending to bike the route are warned to take a mountain bike or hybrid, as the rough terrain will give you—and your tires—a workout. Also be sure to bring food and drink, as Elkmont is the only place to purchase refreshments along the route.

About halfway through the trail, the trail crosses through Elkmont's historic depot (it's used for community activities), a refurbished railcar, a few places to eat, and retail options for those wanting to make a side trip. The Elkmont Trailhead has restrooms at the southern end of the depot, as well as a small parking area, making it a good place to access the trail.

A mile south of Elkmont, a sign marks the location of the Sulphur Creek Trestle, the tallest bridge on this former rail line, which served as a major transport artery for Union troops and supplies heading to the Civil War's Southern front. A plaque commemorates the 1864 Battle of Sulphur Creek Trestle, during which a TA&C supply train moving Union Army troops and goods from Nashville to Atlanta came under attack. More than 200 soldiers were killed during the ensuing firefight.

A small gravel parking lot off of County Road 55/Hays Mill Road provides another access point along the trail, with a small parking lot. The southern portion of the trail continues through wooded areas and features a charming covered bridge before reaching its southern end at the Piney Chapel Road Trailhead, where trail users can find ample parking, a covered picnic area, and restrooms.

### Trail History

The Richard Martin Trail is named for local advocate Richard Martin, who continues to rally for the improvement and extension of the trail. Until 1986, the Tennessee & Alabama



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**States:** Alabama

**Counties:** Limestone

Length: 10.2miles

**Trail end points:** TN/AL State Line (Veto) to Piney Chapel Rd. (Alabama Fork)

**Trail surfaces:** Crushed Stone,Gravel

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Horseback Riding,Mountain Biking,Walking

## Parking & Trail Access

The Richard Martin Trail runs between the TN/AL State Line (Veto) and Piney Chapel Rd. (Alabama Forks), with parking at both ends.

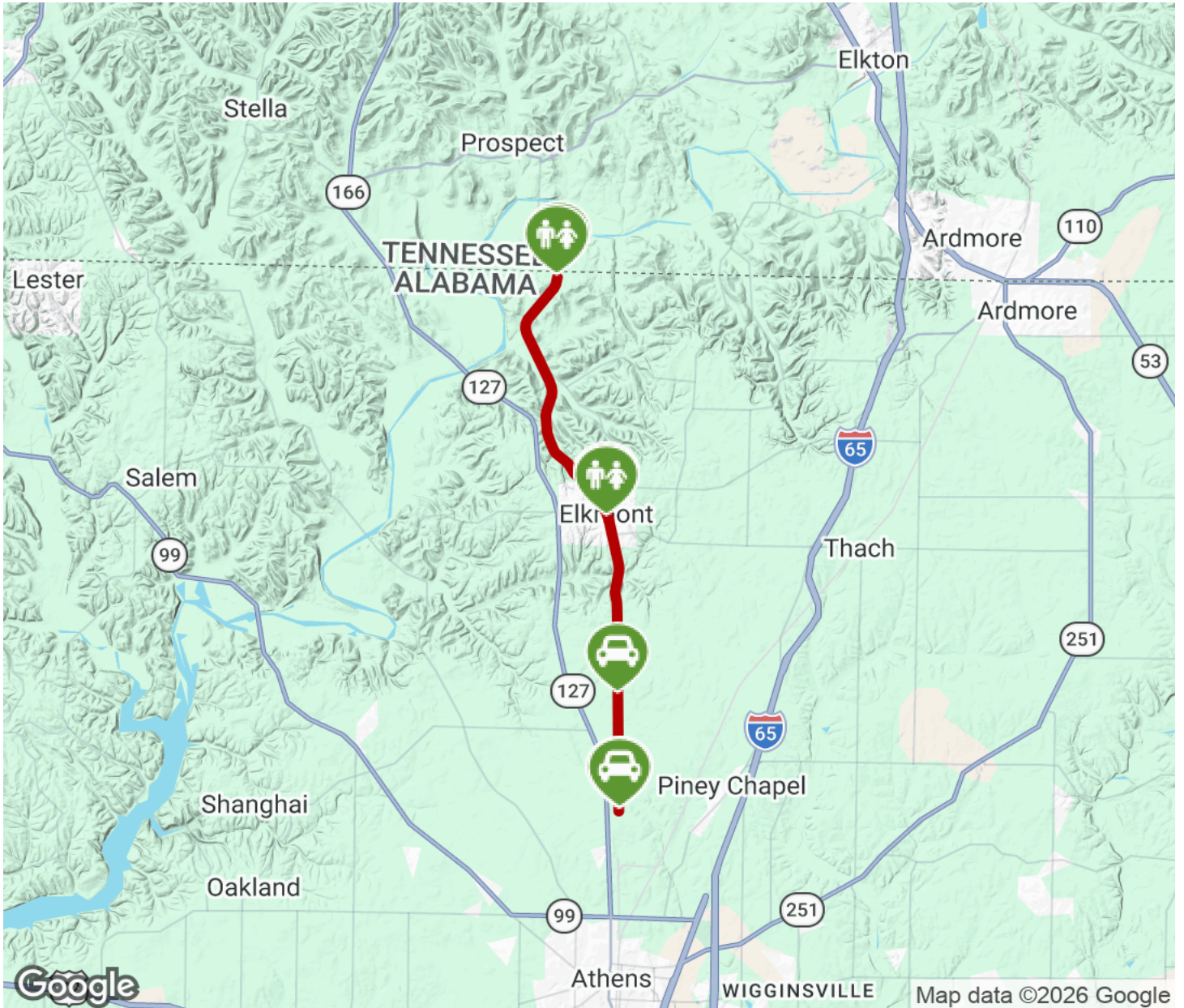
Parking is also available along Upper Fort Hampton Rd. and Hays Mill Rd. in Elkmont.

These are approximate addresses. Please see the [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

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