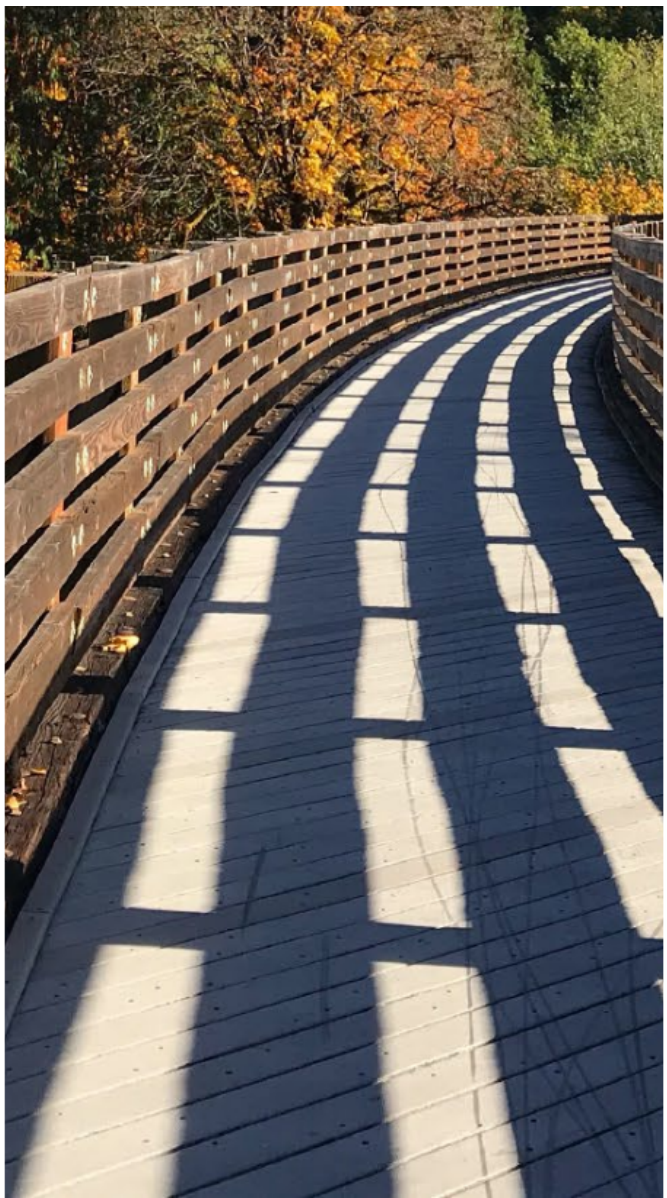
TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

2025

TrailLink Unlimited

Guides



Great Allegheny Passage

Maryland, Pennsylvania

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Ever since the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) was completed in 2013, overnight bicycle riders and backpackers have flocked to the 150-mile rail-trail that travels through Western Pennsylvania and Maryland. The welcoming small towns along the route entice travelers with lodging, camping, markets, and dining. Trail users marvel at the scenery along one of the longest rail-trails in the United States. The biggest allure might be the ability to travel off-road for over 330 miles—all the way from Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C.—when combining the GAP with the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park (C&O Canal Towpath) in Cumberland, Maryland.

The GAP also hosts part of the September 11th National Memorial Trail, which connects the World Trade Center, Flight 93, and Pentagon Memorials.

The route mainly follows old railbeds between Pittsburgh and Cumberland, in many cases alongside scenic rivers and streams. Westbound travelers from mile marker 0 in Cumberland will experience a steep grade in the 23.7 miles to the Eastern Continental Divide—the high point of the trail. Eastbound travelers will find a slight but steady grade from Pittsburgh to the Eastern Continental Divide. Abundant historical sites from the French and Indian Wars, as well as from the era of Western exploration, can be found.

While most users are on foot or bike, equestrians are allowed on grassy adjacent paths between Boston and Connellsville; Rockwood and Garrett; and the Pennsylvania–Maryland state line and Frostburg, Maryland. Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are popular wintertime pursuits. Before setting out, it's a good idea to check the GAP website for local trail conditions and for opportunities for dining, lodging, and shuttle services.

Pennsylvania

On its western end, the trail leaves off from historic Point State Park in Pittsburgh. Heading east, it crosses over the Monongahela River on a former railway bridge and travels west along the water until it meets the Youghiogheny River at McKeesport. Along the way, see the remnants of the Steel City's past in the form of a large industrial furnace, a ladle car, and a former steel mill, in addition to an array of interpretive signage.

All along the entire GAP, trail users will experience a sense of remoteness and tranquility amid the landscape of lush forests, wildflowers meadows, and sparkling rivers, but the

Great Allegheny Passage

Maryland, Pennsylvania

States: Maryland, Pennsylvania
Counties: Allegany,Allegheny,Fayette, Somerset,Westmoreland
Length: 153.22miles
Trail end points: Point State Park near Commonwealth Pl & Liberty Ave (Pittsburgh, PA) to Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park at Canal St & Harrison St (Cumberland, MD)
Trail surfaces: Asphalt,Concrete,Crushed Stone,Dirt,Gravel

Parking & Trail Access

The Great Allegheny Passage goes between Point State Park near Commonwealth Pl & Liberty Ave (Pittsburgh, PA) and the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park at Canal St & Harrison St (Cumberland, MD), with parking at the southern end.

There is parking available at most major city/towns along the route:

- 501 Water St (McKeesport)
- 7 Sheridan St (Ohiopyle)
- 511 Dale St (Meyersdale)

For a detailed list of parking areas and other waypoints, go to the GAP website or see TrailLink Map.

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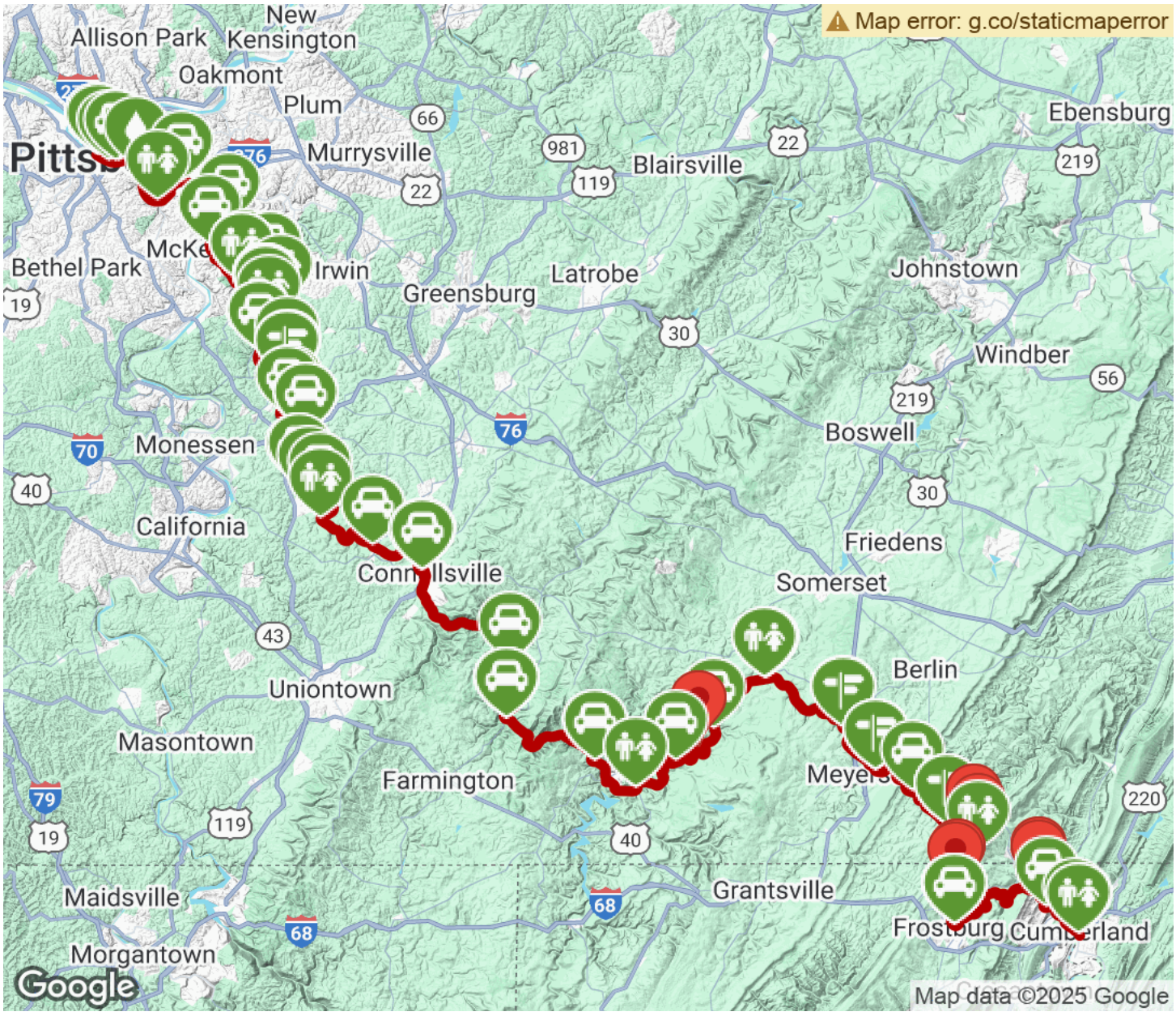

Trailhead Restroom Parking Water Fountain Tunnel

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