



2025

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



Mammoth Cave Railroad Bike & Hike Trail

Kentucky



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At the northern end of the 8.5-mile Mammoth Cave Railroad Bike & Hike Trail is the impressive Mammoth Cave. With 390 miles of passages, it's the world's longest cave, more than double the length of its closest competitor. Named for its massive size (and not woolly mammoth fossils, which have not been found there), the cave is one of the oldest tourist attractions in the country.

About the Route

The rail-turned-trail is now a scenic, wooded experience, but note that its loose gravel surface is best tackled with mountain bikes or hiking boots. And, unlike most rail trails, which are relatively flat, this trail has a few hills. Along the route, there are three well-marked areas where the climb is so steep that it's recommended that cyclists

dismount and walk up the hill.

The southern end of the trail lies on the outskirts of Park City (known as Glasgow Junction in the railroad's heyday), where trail users can explore the old stone structure of a stagecoach stop at Bell's Tavern, built in the early 1800s.

Trail History

The Mammoth Cave Railroad was privately owned by entrepreneurs who also owned lodging along the way. Its railroad ties were put in place during the summer of 1886 and, by that fall, two- and three-car trains were barreling down the corridor. Mail was also carried by the train, and the Chaumont Post Office was included among the many stops during the short, 25-minute journey between Park City and the cave.

Trains continued on the line for more than 40 years before service finally ended, largely pushed out by the rise of the automobile. In 1936, the rails were removed, but one of the last engines, dubbed Hercules for its pulling power, can still be seen today just south of the visitor center for Mammoth Cave National Park. Formally a streetcar, Hercules was converted for use on the narrow-gauge railroad and is shown pulling a train car in the line's hallmark red color.



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Kentucky

States: Kentucky

Counties: Barren, Edmonson

Length: 8.5 miles

Trail end points: Mammoth Cave Hotel, 171 Hotel Road (Mammoth Cave) to Zion Cemetery Rd. (Park City)

Trail surfaces: Gravel

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Mountain Biking, Walking

Parking & Trail Access

The Mammoth Cave Railroad Bike & Hike Trail runs between Mammoth Cave Hotel, 171 Hotel Road (Mammoth Cave), and Zion Cemetery Rd. (Park City).

Parking is also available at:

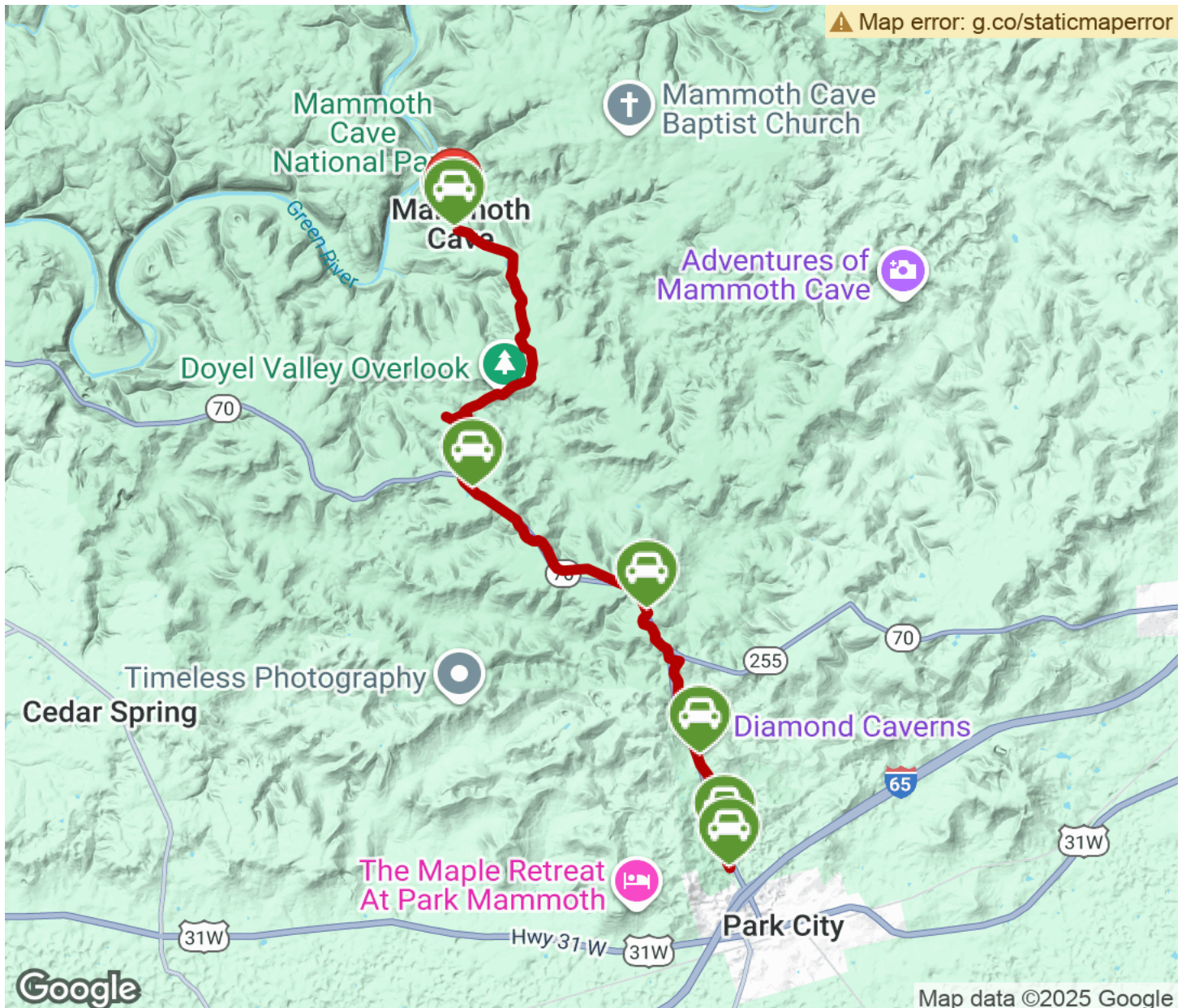
- 1878 Mammoth Cave Pkwy (Park City)

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



Mammoth Cave Railroad Bike & Hike Trail

Kentucky



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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