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TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**High Bridge  
Trail State  
Park**  
*Virginia*



# High Bridge Trail State Park

Virginia

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## Overview

The central feature for which the High Bridge Trail State Park is named is an unforgettable experience, a bridge that towers 125 feet above the mighty Appomattox River and nearly a half-mile (2,422 feet) across it. The bridge's breathtaking view of the surrounding central Virginia countryside, combined with the ease of getting here (the trail is only about an hour's drive from both Lynchburg and Richmond), makes it a must-see destination.

## About the Route

The route of the High Bridge Trail State Park follows the wide, gentle grade of the former South Side Railroad, a spur off the Norfolk Southern Railway. Along the way,

look for the railroad's three-digit mile markers dating back to the 1850s; those marked with N list the distance from Norfolk, while those labeled with a W notified railroad engineers to blow their whistles.

The trails extend outward from either end of the bridge, totaling more than 30 miles through woodlands and rural farmland. Starting with the High Bridge as mile marker 0, newer, two-digit mile markers line the trail heading both east and west. In addition to Farmville, the communities of Pamplin, Prospect, and Rice are connected by the trail. The trail's eastern end lies just outside of Burkeville.

The trail's surface of finely crushed limestone is well suited for hybrid and mountain bikes, and horseback riding is also permitted. Restrooms are available en route, but drinking water is available only in downtown Farmville, so be sure to pack some.

## Trail History

During the Civil War, the bridge along the High Bridge Trail— included on the National Register of Historic Places—was a strategic point for both Union and Confederate soldiers; both armies made attempts to destroy it to prevent the other side from crossing the river. About a dozen miles from the west end of the High Bridge Trail is the Appomattox Court House, where General Lee finally surrendered. Several museums and other historical attractions in Appomattox make the town a worthwhile side trip.



# High Bridge Trail State Park

Virginia

**States:** Virginia

**Counties:** Appomattox, Cumberland, Nottoway, Prince Edward

Length: 32.2 miles

**Trail end points:** Main St. (Pamplin) to Dead End near E Colonial Trail Hwy (Burkeville)

**Trail surfaces:** Crushed Stone

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike, Fishing, Wheelchair Accessible, Horseback Riding, Mountain Biking, Walking

## Parking & Trail Access

The High Bridge Trail State Park runs between Main St. (Pamplin) and a dead end near E Colonial Trail Hwy (Burkeville).

Parking is available at:

- 3443 US-460 (Pamplin)
- 1779 Pamplin Road (Pamplin)
- 1466 Camp Paradise Rd (Rice)

Note for equestrians: There are designated horse trailer parking lots at Prospect (14.1 miles from the bridge), Osborn Road (3.9 miles from the bridge), and Camp Paradise Road (0.6 miles from the bridge).

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

