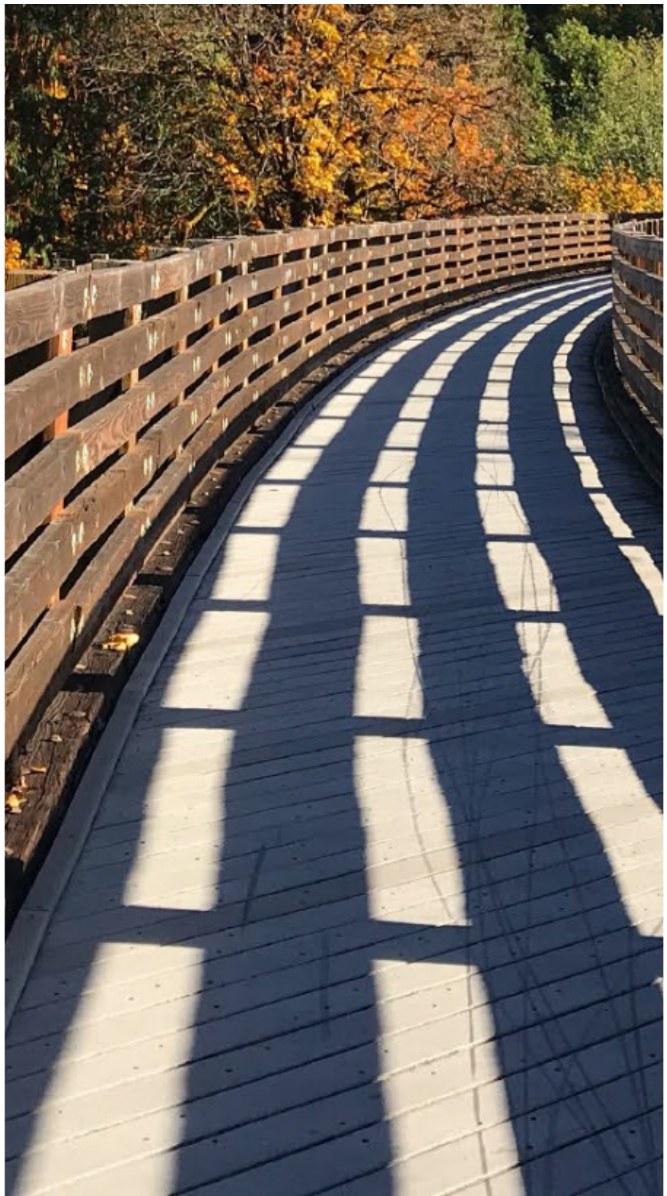
TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

2026

TrailLink Unlimited Guides



Ballona Creek Bike Path

California

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The Ballona Creek Bike Path follows Ballona Creek along its meandering banks through the residential neighborhoods of western Los Angeles. Beginning at the mouth of the creek overlooking the Pacific Ocean and ending in bustling downtown Culver City, this trail provides users with a unique recreational experience that combines an exploration of the iconic concrete channels of Los Angeles' watershed with unparalleled opportunities for wildflower viewing and bird-watching.

At its western end, the Ballona Creek Bike Path connects to the Marvin Braude Bike Trail, a 22-mile trail that travels along Los Angeles' coastline. You can take that trail to catch a glimpse of whales, dolphins, and sea lions frolicking in the Pacific Ocean, or explore the nearby neighborhoods of Venice Beach, Marina del Rey, and Playa del Rey. The western end of the Ballona Creek trail is also your best opportunity to view waterfowl in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, the last remaining wetlands habitat in Los Angeles. Keep your eyes peeled for herons, egrets, godwits, pelicans, cormorants, and ospreys, among other wetlands species.

At its eastern end, the trail connects to the Exposition Line Bikeway, which travels through downtown Culver City and follows the Los Angeles Metro E Line light rail (formerly the Expo Line) west to downtown Santa Monica. Exit the trail at Syd Kronenthal Park to observe a pick-up baseball game, grab a bite to eat at one of the streetside cafés along hip and historic Culver Boulevard, or hop on the E Line and enjoy a relaxing ride to a completely different part of LA.

If you plan to travel the whole trail in one fell swoop, be sure to use the restroom and stock up on water and other provisions beforehand, as there are few restrooms or concessions along the trail. That said, the trail is well--connected to the LA street grid, so there are ample opportunities to peel off and find a local coffee shop or grocery store to restock. The endpoints of the trail are your best bet, although there are several streets along the way that may also have what you're looking for, including Centinela Avenue, Sepulveda Boulevard, and Obama Boulevard.

Along the Ballona Creek Bike Path, there are several paid parking lots at both ends of the trail, as well as parking opportunities in adjacent parks and ample street parking throughout the neighborhoods in between. Water fountains, seating areas, and shade structures can be found sporadically throughout the trail, becoming most prevalent on the eastern end of the trail, east of I-405.

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States: California

Counties: Los Angeles

Length: 6.4miles

Trail end points: southeast corner of Syd Kronenthal Park (3459 McManus Ave, Culver City) to Marvin Braude Bike Trail adjacent to Ballona Creek, 0.1 mile southeast of Fiji Way (Marina del Rey)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt,Concrete

Trail category: Greenway/Non-RT

Trail activities: Bike,Inline

Parking & Trail Access

The Ballona Creek Bike path runs between Syd Kronethal Park, 3459 McManus Ave. (Culver City), where parking is available, and the Marvin Braude Bike Path (Marina Del Rey).

Culver CITYBUS provides access to the trail at multiple points along the route.

Parking is also available at:

- 5070 S Slauson Ave. (Los Angeles)
- 13745 Fiji Way (Marina del Rey)

Visit the TrailLink map for all options, available transit lines, and detailed directions.

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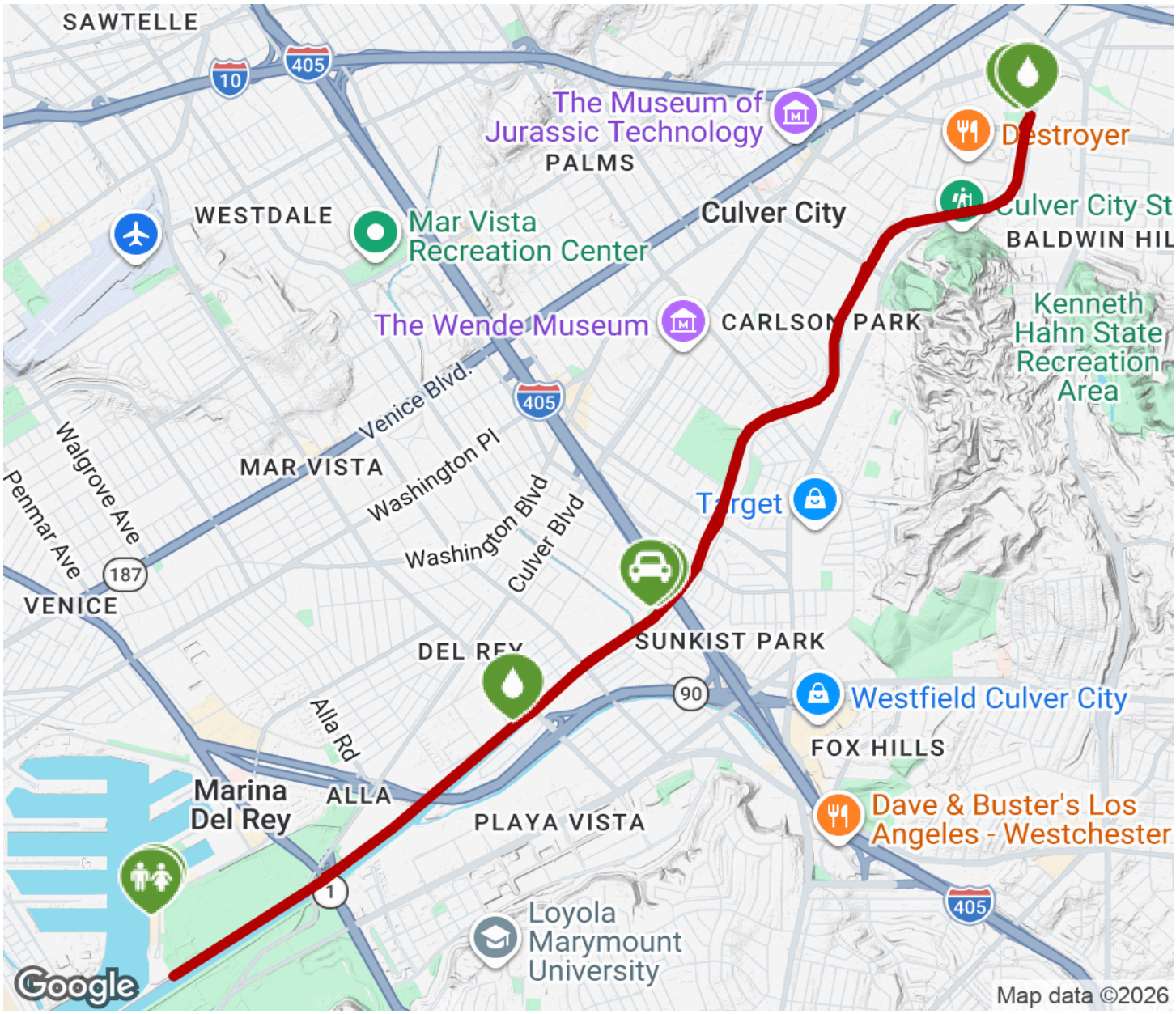

Trailhead Restroom Parking Water Fountain Tunnel

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TrailLink.com