



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides   



**Rio Salado  
Pathway**  
*Arizona*



## Rio Salado Pathway

Arizona

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The paved Rio Salado Pathway runs along both banks of the Salt River in Tempe. The generally dry waterway was expanded into Tempe Town Lake in 1999, and the scenic waterfront area is now a popular recreational, residential, and commercial destination. Often, the trail is referred to as the Tempe Town Lake Trail.

### About the Route

On the lake's south side, the trail connects Arizona State University's main Tempe campus with Tempe Beach Park, as well as the Tempe Marketplace retail mecca. A newer extension on the trail's eastern end continues the trail behind the Tempe Marketplace and under the State Route 202 and 101 interchange to an end at RiverView Park in Mesa. Sloan Park, the spring training home of Major

League Baseball's Chicago Cubs, was recently built in the park, bringing massive crowds to the area on game days.

A bicycle and pedestrian bridge links the two paths over Tempe Town Lake. At the bridge's southern end, the trailside Tempe Center for the Arts offers a variety of exhibits and events in a critically praised building.

### Connections

The trail is shorter on the lake's north side, but it serves the Tempe Town Lake Marina and provides a critical connection to the [Indian Bend Wash Path](#) at its eastern end.



# Rio Salado Pathway

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**States:** Arizona

**Counties:** Maricopa

Length: 10.5 miles

**Trail end points:** S 24th St. (Phoenix) to Red Mountain Fwy (Mesa)

**Trail surfaces:** Concrete

**Trail category:** Greenway/Non-RT

**Trail activities:** Bike, Inline

Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible

## Parking & Trail Access

The Rio Salado Pathway runs between S 24th St. (Phoenix) and Red Mountain Fwy (Mesa).

Parking is also available at:

- Tempe Beach Park, 54 W. Rio Salado Parkway (Tempe)
- Riverview Park, 2100 W. Rio Salado Parkway (Mesa)

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



# Rio Salado Pathway

Arizona



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



**TrailLink**  
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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