

THE CIRCUIT TRAILS

DELAWARE AND RARITAN CANAL TRAIL

Trenton to Lambertville | Mercer County, New Jersey

ACCESS

Public Transit:

Lambertville is accessible via Transbridge Lines from Doylestown, New Hope and New York.

Trenton is accessible via rail service provided by Amtrak, New Jersey Transit, and SEPTA.

Bicycle:

The D&L Trail on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River gives access via the bridges at New Hope-Lambertville, Washington Crossing, and Morrisville-Trenton. Walk your bike on the bridges' walkway.

East Coast Greenway links to this tour at Trenton. Visit www.greenway.org

Vehicle Parking:

Lambertville Station: 40.364756, -74.945880

Fireman's Eddy: 40.342392, -74.941894

Moore's Creek: 40.322591, -74.915193

Washington Crossing State Park Trailhead: 40.298283, -74.868576

Scudder's Falls (I-95): 40.264996, -74.847980

East Trenton: 40.245001, -74.818941 - On-street parking available in Trenton.



OVERVIEW

General Characteristics:

- Trail length: 14 miles
- Surface: Crushed stone and gravel
- Multi-use trail: biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and mountain biking
- Entirely within the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park, which was designated a state park in 1974.
- Trail is former tow-path of the Delaware and Raritan Canal, which carried shipments of Pennsylvania coal from Philadelphia to New York throughout the 19th Century.
- Bike and canoe rentals available in nearby towns for use on the river and canal.
- Very easy to create loop trips of varying lengths by using Pennsylvania side of trail.
- Overnight trips are possible

History and Future

Prior to the Civil War, the Belvidere-Delaware Railroad was opened along the Delaware River from Trenton to just below the Delaware Water Gap. Later this was part of the Pennsylvania Railroad's route to the Poconos. After passenger service ended in 1960, Conrail operated freight service until the line was abandoned in the 1970's.

Today, boat traffic on the canal is limited to canoes and kayaks, but the canal still serves as an important water supply, bringing Delaware River water to many central New Jersey Communities. The revenue from water bills helps to insure the repair and maintenance of the historic canal and the many interesting structures which line its banks.

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SPECIAL AMENITIES

It is very rare to see a fully-watered, historic, 19th-century canal, such as the D&R Canal.

Lodging: Charming old inns and B&B's are plentiful in Washington Crossing and Lambertville - New Hope.

Dining: New Hope and Lambertville offer a wide variety of dining choices.

Washington Crossing Inn: gourmet food in a historic setting (Pennsylvania).

The New Jersey State Capital is close to the trail in Trenton. Turn right from the Trail onto Calhoun Street, and then left in a block onto State Street. The government complex is on the right, while great historic homes line the left side of State Street, many of which are now offices.

Washington Crossing has several historic sites and a large state park to explore. The park is on both sides of the river, linked by a historic truss bridge with a walkway.

It is possible to make a loop using the Towpath of the Pennsylvania Canal (or D&L Trail) for a return trip along the Pennsylvania side.

The D&R trail continues Northwest to Princeton, Bound Brook and New Brunswick, and Northeast to Stockton and Frenchtown.



TRIP IDEAS

Capitol Loop Overnight

Begin in Trenton. Before departing, visit the State Capital complex (www.njleg.state.nj.us).

Head north on the trail toward Washington Crossing State Park. Enjoy a picnic lunch in the park or stop at one of the restaurants adjacent to the trail.

Continue north to Lambertville. Spend the night in town or across the river in New Hope.

On day two begin in New Hope and head south on the Delaware and Lehigh Canal Trail.

Stop for lunch on the Pennsylvania side of Washington Crossing.

Continue south and in Morrisville recross the Delaware River on the historic Calhoun Street Bridge. The bridge brings you back to Calhoun Street in Trenton.

Tour length - 30 miles

Biking - 1 hour on day 1, 1.5 hours on day 2

Walking - 4.5 hours on day 1, 5 hours on day 2

Canal Loop

Begin at the Lambertville Station Inn.

Head south on the trail toward Washington Crossing and enjoy dramatic river views.

At Washington Crossing stop for lunch, then cross the bridge that leads into Pennsylvania.

Head north on the trail back to New Hope, then re-cross the river to finish the trip in Lambertville.

Tour length - 15 miles

Biking - 1.25 hours

Walking - 4.75 hours

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TRAIL MAP

