

# *Pilot Mountain State Park*

## TRAILS - Mountain Section

1721 Pilot Knob Road, Pinnacle, NC

### **Fiddlehead Trail** 0.4 mile easy orange

This easy trail begins across the road from the visitor center and follows orange square blazes. Hikers can turn this into a loop by returning on the Grassy Ridge Trail for a total distance of 0.7 mile. This trail features a children's StoryWalk® — a series of signs posted along the trail that form a story. The StoryWalk Project was created by Anne Ferguson and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Vermont.

### **Grassy Ridge Trail** 1.5 mile moderate yellow

This trail wanders through lowland pine and hardwood forests and crosses meandering streams. It offers ample seasonal wildflower displays. The trail begins at the visitor center, but can also be accessed from the Pinnacle Hotel Road/Culler Road entrance. It can be used to connect to the Corridor Trail or Mountain Trail. Distance is one way.

### **Grindstone Trail** 3.5 miles strenuous blue

This trail begins across the road from the visitor center, travels above the campground, and climbs the mountain to the summit. The trail ends at the summit picnic area. The vegetation on this trail changes with elevation. Distance is one way.

### **Pilot Knob Trail** 0.8 miles moderate red

Along this trail, hikers can spot rare and interesting plants and a tall, impressive cliff. This trail starts at the upper side of the summit parking area. It then crosses the gap to the Big Pinnacle before making a loop around the base and returning across the gap. Climbing on the Big Pinnacle is strictly prohibited. Please stay on designated trails at all times. Distance is round trip.

### **Ledge Spring Trail** 1.0 mile strenuous yellow

This trail travels along the foot of the cliffs and ledges to the west of the Little Pinnacle. This trail begins off the Pilot Knob Trail and ends on the Grindstone Trail. Hikers can begin from the summit parking area to create a 2.0-mile loop. This trail is extremely strenuous and has rock steps.

### **Little Pinnacle Overlook** 0.1 mile easy

This short trail leads to the Little Pinnacle Overlook and offers some of the best views in the park. Follow the path located south of the Pilot Knob Trail up a moderate grade to the overlook. The overlook provides a view of the Big Pinnacle, Sauratown Mountains, and Hanging Rock, and on a clear day, you view 3,000 square miles from this point.

### **Mountain Trail** 4.3 miles strenuous red

This moderate to strenuous rolling trail skirts the bottom of the mountain. Hikers can connect to the Grindstone Trail to form a 6-mile loop. This trail can be accessed from the Pinnacle Hotel Road parking lot or the Grindstone Trail.

### **Mountains-to-Sea State Trail** strenuous white

A portion of the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail (MST) passes through the park. It enters the park on the southern end of the Corridor Trail from the west and parallels the Corridor, Mountain, and Grindstone Trails. It exits the park to the east. To learn more, visit [trails.nc.gov](https://trails.nc.gov).

### **Sassafras/TRACK Trail** 0.15 mile moderate

This trail offers scenic views of the Big Pinnacle and vistas of the surrounding mountains and leads hikers through a unique fire-adapted forest ecosystem. The trail is located to the left of the summit restroom. Part of this trail is a Kids in Parks TRACK Trail. TRACK Trails feature self-guided brochures and signs to turn your visit into a fun outdoor experience. To learn more, visit [kidsinparks.com](https://kidsinparks.com).

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## TRAILS

### Pilot Creek Access

382 Boyd Nelson Road, Pinnacle, NC

**Pilot Creek Trail** 3.3 miles moderate orange ●

This trail crosses the tributaries of Pilot Creek and ascends through a pine oak/heath forest to the campground. The trailhead is located at Boyd Nelson Road and ends at the tent, trailer, RV campground. Hikers can connect to the Grindstone and Mountain trails to form a long loop around the mountain or take the Grindstone Trail to the summit. This trail was built by the Friends of Sauratown Mountains at no cost to the park. For more information about the friends group, visit [sauratownfriends.org](http://sauratownfriends.org).

**Pilot Creek Meadow Walk** easy

Observe birds, butterflies, dragonflies and more as you walk through the meadows above Pilot Creek. This mowed path leads through warm season grass meadows to a small pond where visitors can fish for catfish, sunfish, bass, and more. (Valid inland fishing license is required and regulations of the WRC are enforced.) This walk was established to benefit native pollinators and grassland birds and is a registered part of the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail.

### Ivy Bluffs Access

4240 Shoals Road, East Bend, NC

**Ivy Bluff Trail** 1.3 miles easy red ●

This trail has moderate to steep slopes covered with Mountain Laurel and Rhododendron. The trailhead is located at the Ivy Bluff parking area.

### Bean Shoals Access

103 Yadkin River Park Trail & 622 Hauser Road, Pinnacle, NC

**Bean Shoals Canal Trail** 0.5 mile easy red ●

This trail travels alongside the Yadkin River and passes the remnants of the Bean Shoals Canal. Along this trail, you can see what remains of the attempt to build a canal around the shallow, rocky Bean Shoals in the 1820s. The trailhead is located at the end of the park road next to the kiosk. Cross the railroad tracks and turn right at the river. The railroad is active. Use caution when crossing the tracks. Distance is one way.

**Corridor Trail** 6.6 miles strenuous white △

This sloped hiking and bridle trail meanders through pine and hardwood forests and connects the Mountain section and the River section of the park. Parking areas for this trail are located at Hauser Road and Pinnacle Hotel Road. Horses must remain on marked bridle trails. Horses may only be loaded and unloaded in the parking areas located at each end of the Corridor Trail. Distance is one way.

**Horne Creek Trail** 2.5 miles moderate blue ●

This sloped trail begins at the picnic area located between the 2nd and 3rd bridges on park road. The trail meanders along Horne Creek before closely following the Yadkin River and meeting up with the Bean Shoals Canal Trail. Hikers can turn this trail into a 3.5-mile loop by returning to the picnic area on the park road.

**Yadkin Island Trail** 1.5 miles moderate orange ■

This is a hiking and bridle trail and has a creek crossing. The trailhead is located at the Hauser Road parking area. The bridle section of the trail ends at the 1.1-mile marker. No horses may cross the Yadkin Valley Railroad. Equestrians have the option of creating a 2-mile loop trail by following the gravel road back to the Hauser Road parking area. Hiking can continue on to the Bean Shoals Canal Trail. Distance is one way.