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TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Old Rail Trail *California*



Old Rail Trail

California

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If you're looking for a gentle rail-trail in Marin County that offers stunning views of both San Francisco Bay and Mt. Tamalpais, the Old Rail Trail is for you. Known alternately as the Tiburon Historical Trail, the Tiburon Bike Path, and the Tiburon Linear Park, the trail begins at Blackie's Pasture, a scenic landing named after a celebrated swaybacked, retired cavalry horse named "Blackie" that once roamed here.

Soon after beginning the trail you pass the coastal mudflats of Richardson Bay, transition zones between land and sea that host a wide variety of plants and wildlife. A bird—and birder's—paradise, Richardson Bay hosts more than 1 million migratory birds every year, along with a diverse mix of year-round residents, including great blue herons, snowy egrets and red-tailed hawks.

Breathtaking views of the bay start here, and they stay with you for the remainder of the trail.

The Old Rail Trail passes a number of playgrounds, small parks and playing fields, so it's family-friendly and a great destination for a picnic or afternoon outing. It's also popular with cyclists and joggers, and with a paved section for cyclists and a wide dirt shoulder for walkers and joggers, there's ample room for both. The trail runs along the coast through Tiburon and into Belvedere. Now among the most exclusive communities in the San Francisco Bay Area, both had humble beginnings.

In the early 1900s, Tiburon was a blue-collar railroad town, with cargo trains running daily. One of the railroad's "most famous deliveries" was Al Capone, who was carried by train to Alcatraz in 1934. Belvedere, meanwhile, once hosted the ever-pungent McCollam Fish Factory.

At about mile 2, the path becomes an on-street bike lane along Tiburon Boulevard. Continue into downtown Tiburon and the trail's end in Shoreline Park at the ferry terminal. Here you'll find more great views of the bay, a host of restaurants and shops and the perfect spot to watch the sun set. The terminal is also a great launching point for more adventures: you can take a ferry to nearby Angel Island or San Francisco or continue along the Paradise Loop, a popular on-street route for cyclists.

The Tiburon Historical Trail is also a component of the [San Francisco Bay Trail](#), a developing effort to create a 500-mile multiuse trail encircling its namesake bay.



Old Rail Trail

California

States: California

Counties: Marin

Length: 2.6miles

Trail end points: Blackie's Pasture on
Greenwood Beach Rd to Angel Island-Tiburon
Ferry terminal on Main St (Tiburon)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike,Inline
Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Walking

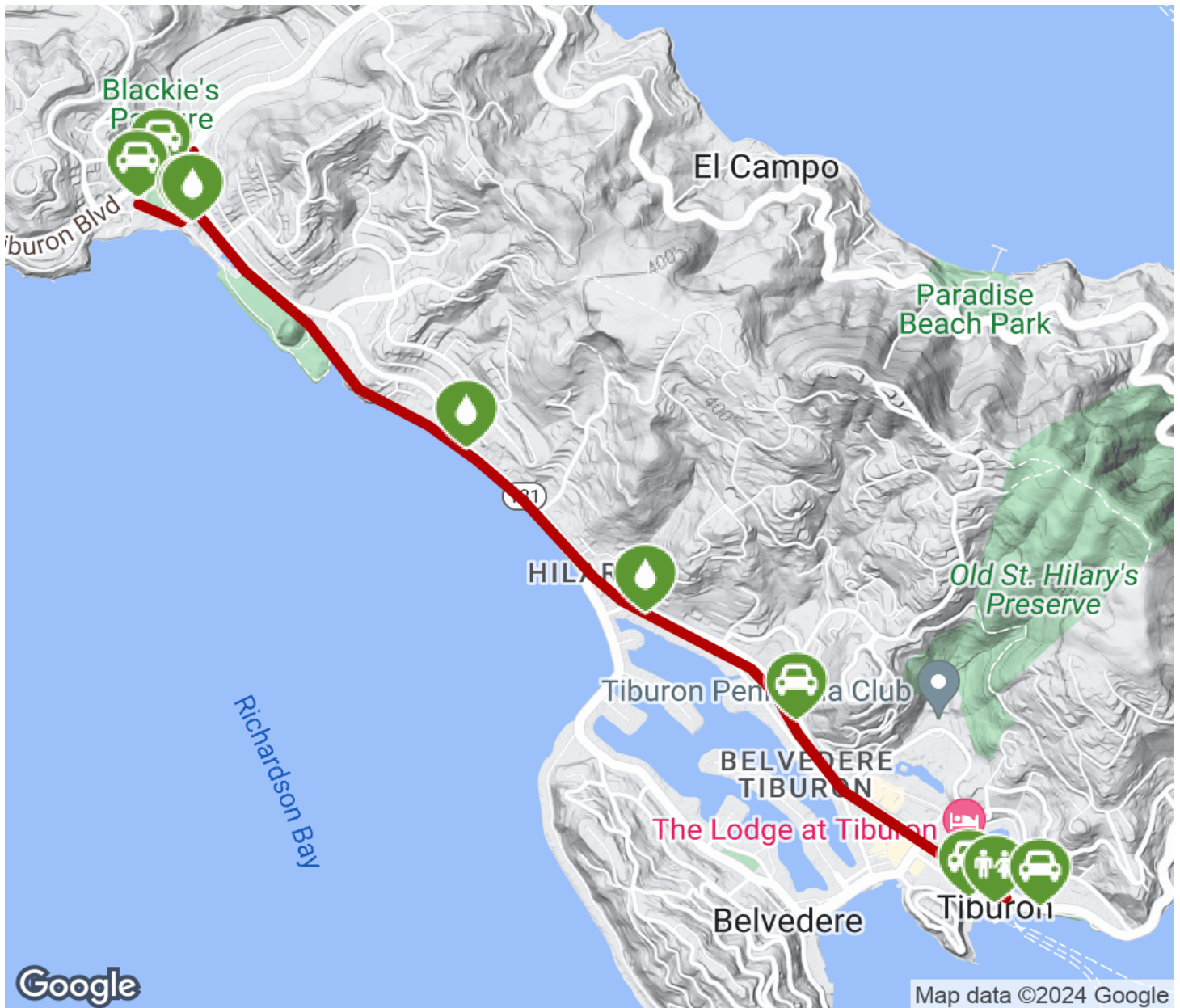
Parking & Trail Access

The trailhead is at the southern end of the parking lot on Tiburon Boulevard, near Blackie's Pasture. Visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all options and detailed directions.



Old Rail Trail

California



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com