

SCHUYLKILL 6 RIVER TRAIL

POTTSTOWN TO READING

Montgomery and Berks Counties



ACCESS

Public Transit

SEPTA Bus

Route 93 bus from Norristown to Montgomery County Community College, directly across from the trailhead at the Schuylkill River Heritage Area.

Pottstown Area Rapid Transit

Visit <http://pottstownarearapidtransit.com/> and see their maps and schedules in their Ride Guide.

Bieber Tourways

Bieber Tourways operates intercity bus service between Reading, Pottsville, Norristown and Philadelphia, giving good access to the end points of this tour. Visit their website at <http://www.biebertourways.com/>.

BARTA Bus

Numerous local routes in Reading and its suburbs are provided by BARTA, including several routes with serve RACC and the Lancaster Avenue access to the Trail.

Bicycle

The SRT currently ends at the Pottstown Trailhead at the headquarters of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area. Refer to the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia’s “great Philadelphia Bicycle Map” for recommended on-road bicycle routes linking with the Trail in Pottstown at the downstream end of this tour.

Bike Pottstown/Bike Schuylkill Bike Share provides free bicyclc rentals to use the trail. Visit <http://bikeschuylkill.org/> for details.

Vehicle Parking

There are trailheads at several locations, as well other crossings of back roads:

- Pottstown Riverfront Trailhead
40.243638, -75.653319

- Keystone Blvd. Trailhead
40.245147, -75.660531

- Grosstown Road Trailhead
40.244263, -75.690669

- Union Township
40.258524, -75.781986

- Angstadt Lane Trailhead
40.301122, -75.900003

- Brentwood Trailhead along Route 10
40.301122, -75.900003

- The RACC Trailhead in Reading
40.329383, -75.937041



OVERVIEW

General Characteristics

- Trail segment length: 18.5 miles

- Links the historic manufacturing centers of Pottstown and Reading while passing through beautiful countryside and several charming villages

- Trail is hard surfaced in Montgomery County and crushed stone in Berks County

- Between Birdsboro and Gibraltar (4 miles), the Trail is signed on very pretty back roads

- Historic stone buildings lining the trail make this a very picturesque route

- Restaurants and cafes are accessible to the trail as it passes through Pottstown, Douglassville, Birdsboro, and Reading

- Part of a regional trail that connects the source of the Schuylkill River in Pottsville to its mouth in Philadelphia

History and Future

The Schuylkill River Trail was originally conceived by Philadelphia’s Fairmount Park Commission to give new life to an important industrial corridor that helped build the economy of the region. The trail follows the Schuylkill River through five counties and necessitates cooperation of many jurisdictions. Currently, over 60 miles of trail is completed, and the remaining segments are either under construction, in design, or being studied. When the trail is complete, it will stretch 130 miles from Philadelphia to Pottsville. For more information on the trail’s development, visit www.schuylkillrivertrail.com.

Special Amenities

The River of Revolutions Interpretive Center at the Schuylkill River Heritage Area headquarters at the Pottstown trailhead offers an interactive educational exhibit, parking, and restroom facilities.

Pottsgrove Manor in Pottstown is open year-round for guided tours of the restored 1752 house, as well as public programs, lectures, workshops, and a museum shop.

Morlatton Village in Douglassville is directly accessible from the trail and contains a superb collection of early stone structures including the oldest house in Berks County from 1716. The buildings are open during special events or by reservation.

The Birdsboro Preserve is part of the Hopewell Big Woods, the last large, unbroken forest left in southeastern Pennsylvania. The Birdsboro quarry within the preserve is a popular place for rock climbers with conditions appealing to beginners through experts.

The Trail passes parallel to the Allegheny Aqueduct Historical Park which features a massive 112 1/2 foot historic arched stone “bridge for boats” that connected to the Schuylkill Navigation Canal. The park is ideal for picnics, hiking, and birding.

Near the trail in Reading is the GoggleWorks, the largest, most comprehensive interactive arts center of its kind in the country. The GoggleWorks features free parking, a weekday café, restroom facilities, and a significant number of artistic performances and exhibits. Admission is free.

TRIP IDEAS

Out-and-back Bicycle Trip

Park at the Pottstown Riverfront Trailhead after gathering picnic supplies

Head north on the trail toward Reading

After crossing the Schuylkill River and entering Reading, take a break for lunch in Riverfront Park. Enjoy the scenic river views from the benches or picnic gazebo.

After lunch, return to the trail and head south back to Pottstown.

Tour length - 37 miles

Biking - 4 hours active

Schuylkill History Two-day Expedition

Begin the trip in Pottstown at the Schuylkill River Heritage Area headquarters. Before heading to the trail, visit the River of Revolutions Interpretive Center to learn about the significance of the Schuylkill.

Head north on the trail to the Allegheny Aqueduct Historical Park. Picnic in the park and take in the parks’ peculiar stone structures.

Continue to Reading. Check in at one of Reading’s bed and breakfasts such as the Bed and Breakfast on the Park at 1246 Hill Road.

In the morning, head south on the Trail toward Douglassville. Leave the trail at Morlatton Village and explore the 300 year-old settlement (reserve a tour ahead of time if desired).

Continue back to Pottstown. Before finishing the trip, visit Pottsgrove Manor for a tour and souvenir.