

## Pilot Mountain State Park MOUNTAIN SECTION



GPS: 36.3408, -80.4610

### Park Information

**Pilot Mountain State Park**  
1721 Pilot Knob Park Road, Pinnacle, NC 27043  
(336) 444-5100 ■ [pilot.mountain@ncparks.gov](mailto:pilot.mountain@ncparks.gov)

#### Pilot Creek Access\*

382 Boyd Nelson Road, Pinnacle, NC 27043

#### Pinnacle Hotel Road/Culler Road Parking Area\*

(Mountain and Corridor Trail)

134 Culler Road, Pinnacle, NC 27043

\*Directions to both parking areas on back



North Carolina state parks are open every day, except on Christmas Day. Park hours vary by season. Please visit [ncparks.gov/pimo](http://ncparks.gov/pimo) or contact the park for the most current information about seasonal hours, activities, alerts, camping fees, programs, rules, and weather.

## Pilot Mountain

Like the rocky escarpments in nearby Hanging Rock State Park, Pilot Mountain is part of the Sauratown Mountains, an ancient high-elevation plateau, and is a quartzite monadnock, or an isolated mountain. This rugged mountain rock survived for 500 million years while the elements eroded surrounding peaks to a rolling plain.

Pilot Mountain is capped by two prominent pinnacles. Big Pinnacle, with walls of bare rock and a rounded top covered by vegetation, rises 1,400 feet above the valley floor, with the knob jutting skyward more than 200 feet from its base. Big Pinnacle is connected to Little Pinnacle by a narrow saddle. Visitors have access to the top of Little Pinnacle, where the expansive view encompasses hundreds of square miles of the Piedmont and nearby mountains in North Carolina and Virginia.



N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation  
Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources  
1615 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699  
(919) 707-9300 | [ncparks.gov](http://ncparks.gov)



When you have finished with this publication, help save our earth by sharing it with a friend, returning it to the park or recycling it.

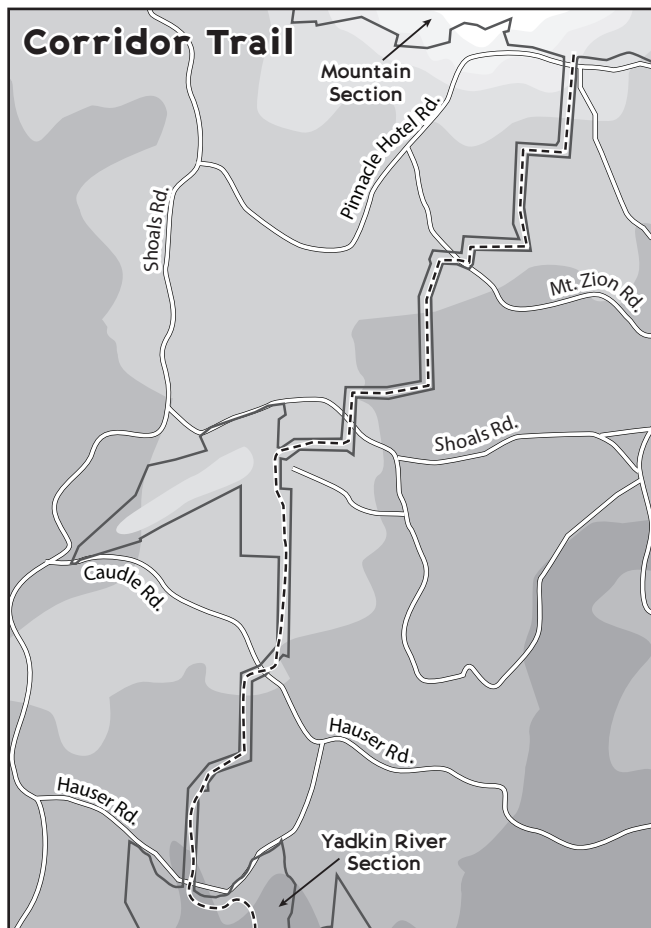
30,000 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of \$1,758.00 or \$0.06 per copy. 04/25

## Rock Climbing

Rock climbing and rappelling are favorite activities at Pilot Mountain, where rocky cliffs offer a challenge to experienced climbers. Climbing is permitted only in designated areas. All climbers must register before beginning a climb. Contact the visitor center for more information. Climbing and rappelling are not permitted on the Big Pinnacle. The Big Pinnacle is a sanctuary for nesting ravens and raptors and has been closed to all forms of climbing since the 1970s.

## Trails

Journey on foot or on horseback. No matter your mode of travel, Pilot Mountain has miles of trails to explore. Little Pinnacle Overlook offers hikers a close-up view of Big Pinnacle and panoramic views of the valley below. Equestrians and hikers alike will relish the 6.6-mile Corridor Trail that connects the two sections of the park. Cliffs, crevices, ravens, and rhododendrons are only a few of the sights to be discovered at the park.



## Camping

**Tent and Trailer Camping:** The lower slopes of Pilot Mountain house the tent and trailer camping area, where 42 campsites for tents and trailers are scattered among oaks and hickories. Each site has a tent pad, table, and grill. Drinking water is available throughout the campground, and two bathhouses with hot showers are conveniently located nearby. There are no electrical hookups. Gathering wood in the park is prohibited. Firewood is available for sale at the campground. Sites are open March 15 through November 30. Reservations are recommended.



### MAKE A RESERVATION

[ncparks.gov/pimo/reservations](http://ncparks.gov/pimo/reservations) 1-877-722-6762

## Picnicking

The picnic area in the mountain section of the park is located near the summit parking lot. Picnic tables and grills are surrounded by a pine and hardwood forest. Drinking water and restrooms are located nearby.

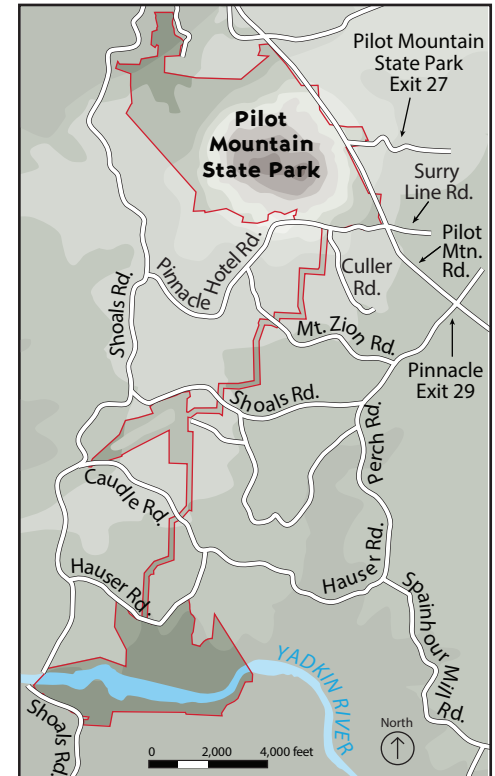
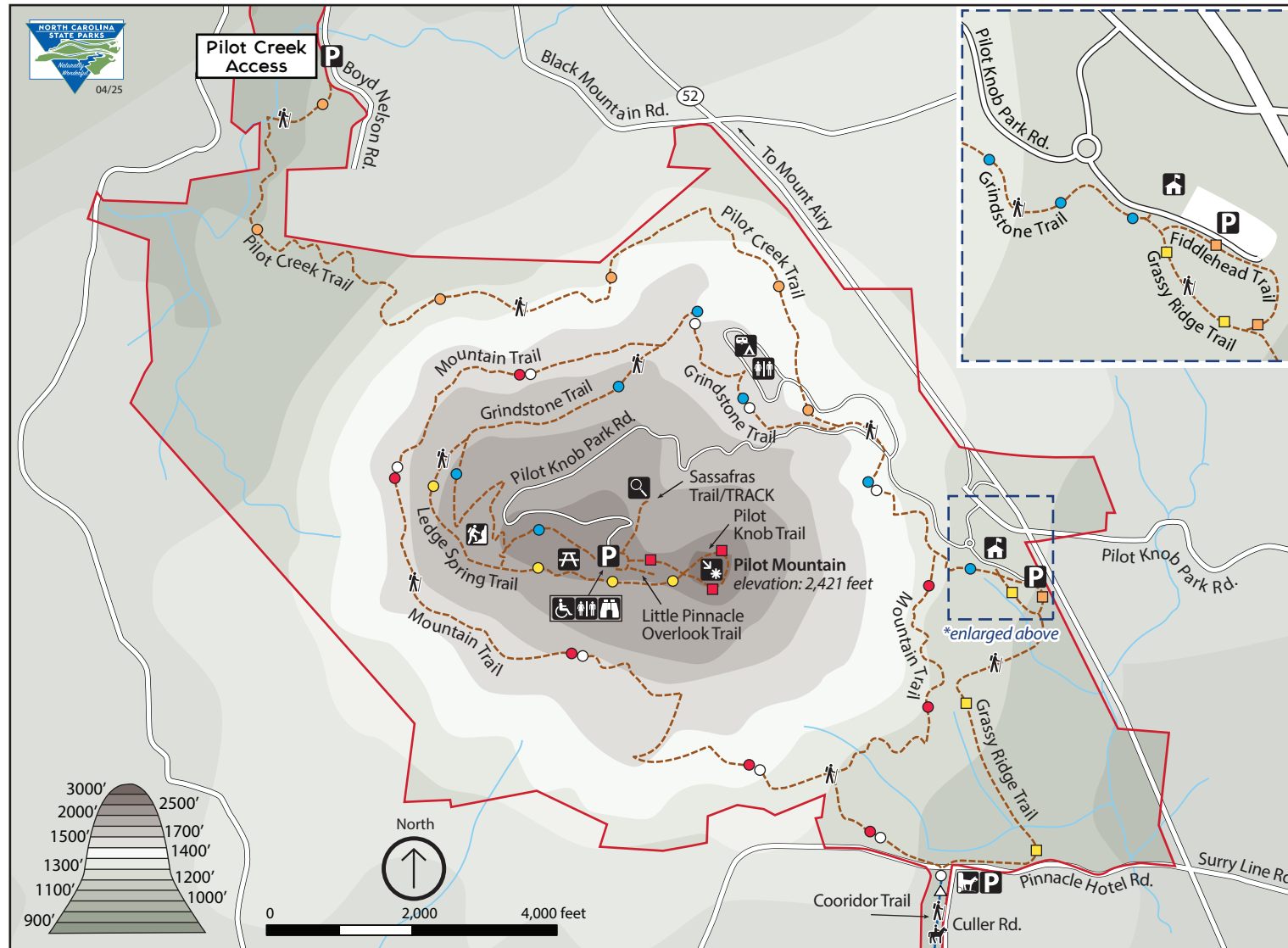
The covered picnic shelter is perfect for larger gatherings. The shelter will accommodate up to 35 people. An adjacent grill makes cooking convenient. The shelter is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Rules and Regulations

- The removal or destruction of any plant, animal, artifact, rock, or mineral is prohibited.
- All areas managed by the Division of Parks and Recreation are wildlife preserves. Hunting and trapping are prohibited.
- Firearms and other weapons are prohibited, except that those with a proper permit may possess a concealed handgun in permitted areas and under the requirements of North Carolina G.S. 14-415.11. All firearms and weapons are prohibited inside the visitor center and other buildings.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited except in designated areas.
- NC Wildlife Resources Commission fishing regulations are enforced. Fishing is permitted only during park hours.
- Pets must be on an attended leash no longer than 6 feet.
- Horses are permitted only on bridle trails.
- Rock climbing is permitted only in designated areas. Climbers must register before beginning to climb.
- Be alert to venomous snakes, ticks, and poison ivy along park trails.
- When hiking, stay on designated trails and away from cliff faces.

# Pilot Mountain State Park

# MOUNTAIN SECTION



The portion of the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail that runs through the park starts at the southern end of the Corridor Trail and travels to the Mountain Trail, past the tent and trailer campground on the Grindstone Trail, and heads east out of the park on Pilot Knob Park Road. Follow the white circle blazes.

**In case of emergency:  
DIAL 911**

**\*All trail distances are one-way except for Pilot Knob Trail, which is round-trip.**

## LEGEND

Accessible	Park Boundary	Restrooms	TRACK Trail
Bridle Trail	Parking Area	Roads	Viewing Area
Hiking Trail	Picnicking Area	Rock Climbing	Visitor Center
Horse Trailer Parking	Point of Interest	Tent/Trailer Campground	

## TRAILS

Corridor Trail	6.6 miles	strenuous	white
Fiddlehead Trail	0.4 mile	easy	orange
Grassy Ridge Trail	1.5 miles	moderate	yellow
Grindstone Trail	3.5 miles	strenuous	blue
Ledge Spring Trail	1.0 mile	strenuous	yellow
Little Pinnacle Overlook Trail	0.1 mile	easy	
Mountain Trail	4.3 miles	strenuous	red
Mountains-to-Sea State Trail	12.6 miles	strenuous	white
Pilot Creek Trail	3.3 miles	moderate	orange
Pilot Knob Trail*	0.8 mile*	moderate	red
Sassafras Trail/TRACK	0.15 mile	moderate	

**To Pilot Creek Access:** Continue north on U.S. 52 to the town of Pilot Mountain at Exit 24. Travel west on N.C. Highway 268 for 0.2 mile, then turn left on Shoals Road. After 0.5 mile turn left on Boyd Nelson Road.

**To Pinnacle Hotel Road/Culler Road parking area (Mountain and Corridor trails):** From the visitor center: at the traffic circle, take the first exit to Pilot Knob Park Road. At the stop sign, turn right on Pilot Knob Park Road. Stay on this road for 1.3 miles before turning right on Old Winston Road. After 0.4 mile, turn right on Old Highway 52 (South). At the post office, turn right on Surry Line Road/Pinnacle Hotel Road. Follow this road for 2 miles to the intersection with Culler Road and the parking area on left.