



TWO GREAT TRAILS MEET IN CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

Where the C&O Canal Towpath and Great Allegheny Passage connect



C&O Canal Mile 184.5 marker at Canal Place in Cumberland. Photo supplied by Dan Mullin.

A Remarkable Trail Junction

Cumberland occupies a special place on two of America's best-known long-distance trails. The Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Towpath follows the historic canal corridor for about 184.5 miles between Georgetown in Washington, D.C., and Cumberland. At Cumberland, travelers can continue on the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP), which runs about 150 miles between Cumberland and Pittsburgh. Together, the routes create a continuous trail journey of roughly 334.5 miles between Washington and Pittsburgh.

C&O CANAL TOWPATH

Georgetown, Washington, D.C. to Cumberland
Approx. 184.5 miles
Historic canal, locks, aqueducts and Potomac River scenery

GREAT ALLEGHENY PASSAGE

Cumberland to Pittsburgh
Approx. 150 miles
Rail-trail scenery, tunnels, bridges and the Eastern Continental Divide

EXPLORE THE CONNECTION AT CANAL PLACE



Close-up of the granite Mile 184.5 marker.



Canal basin and pedestrian bridge at Canal Place.

Have You Seen the Mile 184.5 Marker?

The marker is near the canal basin at Canal Place. One practical way to spot it is to stand near the Performance Pavilion and look across the basin. The pedestrian bridge provides access to the opposite side. Use designated walkways and crossings and remain alert around the active railroad corridor. It is an easy-to-miss piece of Cumberland's transportation history - and a rewarding find once you know where to look.

Why Cumberland Matters

For through-travelers, Cumberland is more than a rest stop: it is the handoff between two distinct historic corridors. The C&O Canal tells the story of 19th-century canal transportation along the Potomac, while the GAP largely follows former railroad corridors through the Alleghenies. Walkers and cyclists can experience both stories on one continuous journey.

PLAN YOUR OWN VISIT

[National Park Service - C&O Canal](#)

[Great Allegheny Passage - Official Site](#)

[NPS - Cumberland Visitor Information](#)

[GAP - Explore Cumberland](#)



Tucker's Trail Tip:

Even a short walk around Canal Place gives visitors a close-up look at the canal basin, trail connection, railroad history, and downtown Cumberland - no 334-mile trip required!