

# Weekends at Pilot Mountain State Park

**Pilot Mountain State Park is at capacity most weekends.** This guide outlines what to expect when you visit during the weekends, and page 2 has a list of alternatives should the park be full when you arrive for your visit.

## Parking rules on weekends:

- The Summit parking lot is open to vehicles from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on weekends and holidays.
- From 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays, no visitor vehicles are permitted uphill past the visitor center parking lot.
- During the months when the park is open past 6:00 p.m., the Summit parking lot reopens to visitor vehicles from 6:00 p.m. to when the park closes.
- Oversized vehicles are not permitted at the Summit parking lot on weekends and holidays.
- Expect a wait for parking on weekends and holidays. We recommend arriving early or later in the day. We also recommend visiting on weekdays if you can.
- Once a parking lot fills, cars will only be let in as space allows.
- Please note that drones, UAVs, flying machines or RC aircraft are NOT permitted at Pilot Mountain State Park at anytime. Drones cannot be launched from the state road or US highway outside the front gate.

## Shuttle information:

The park's shuttle service takes visitors from the new visitor center parking lot to the Summit area.

The shuttle is available every Saturday, Sunday and state holidays until the day after Thanksgiving. Shuttle service runs from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The round-trip fare for adults is \$5. One-way tickets are available for \$2.50. Kids 13 and under ride free.

On weekends and holidays, visitor vehicles are not allowed uphill past the visitor center from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. You must park at the visitor center parking lot and either utilize the shuttle service or hike up if you want to access the Summit area.

[Purchase shuttle tickets](#)

[View the shuttle schedule](#)

## Satellite parking lots

### Pilot Creek access

382 Boyd Nelson Road  
Pinnacle, NC 27043

- » *access to Pilot Creek Trail*
- » *15 cars*

### Pinnacle Hotel Rd / Culler Road

134 Culler Road  
Pinnacle, NC 27043

- » *Mountain and Corridor trails*
- » *50 cars*

### Hauser Road

622 Hauser Road  
Pinnacle, NC 27043

- » *Corridor Trail*
- » *north river section*
- » *40 cars*

### Ivy Bluff access

4240 Shoals Road  
East Bend, NC 27018

- » *south river section*
- » *20 cars*

### Ivy Bluff canoe

4454 Shoals Road  
East Bend, NC 27018

- » *fishing and canoe access*
- » *10 cars*

## Can't get into Pilot Mountain State Park on a busy weekend? You may also enjoy:

### Yadkin River Section at Bean Shoals access

The oldest contiguous canal remnants in NC can be seen after a short hike on the canal trail.

Exit 129 off U.S. 52 South  
10 miles south

### Hanging Rock State Park

One of North Carolina's oldest state parks, offering waterfalls, fishing, swimming, paddling, and rock climbing.

1790 Hanging Rock Park Road  
Danbury, NC 27016  
22 miles east

### Blue Ridge Parkway

Enjoy this scenic drive, offering stunning long-range vistas and views of the Appalachian landscape. Be sure to check out Cumberland Knob (first developed recreation area on the parkway), Mabry Mill, and the Blue Ridge Music Center.

21 miles on U.S. 52 North

### Horne Creek Farm State Historic Site

Restored 19th century farm features a glimpse into farm life of the 1800s. Open Tuesday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

308 Horne Creek Farm Road  
Pinnacle, NC 27043  
9 miles south

### Downtown Mount Airy

Walk downtown, enjoy shops and restaurants, the historic Earle Theater and the Mount Airy Museum of History

14 miles north on U.S. 52

### Nelson Acres Town Park

Downtown Pilot Mountain park offering trails & disc golf course.

873 W. 52 Bypass  
Pilot Mountain, NC  
5 miles north

### Fishing

Ararat, Fisher, Mitchell or Yadkin rivers. Visit the NCWRC map of public accesses »

### More ideas and information

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