

Walking the MitchelldalesSM--Penland #1 Walk

Distance: 5.87 miles

Time: 2.5-3 hours

Elev. Gain: 617ft

Accessibility: Mostly flat surfaces around the school. Wheelchairs will need to park closer to the school instead of at the gallery. A lot of the campus is wheelchair accessible and the roads are accessible. For access to the gallery, park in the back.

Parking: Several parking options Crimson Laurel Way or intown.

Toilets: Toilets in the administrative building and next to the coffee shop.

Refreshments: Coffee shop is open at various times and usually have muffins and sandwiches and desert available as well as various coffee drinks.

Closest National Park Centre: North Carolina Museum of Minerals at the Parkway

Route description (Please read before beginning)

1. Park behind the Penland Gallery and take the path behind the gallery to the school. Follow the path through the school. The trail can be extended in several way and by several routes. A visit, in the beginning, to the Gallery for questions and a short information video is well worth the time and will increase your enjoyment of the walk and your understanding of the campus.
2. Wind around the paths of the school. You are welcome to look in open doors but not enter the classrooms. Students may speak to you if they are not in an active class but you should respect their worktime.
3. Stop at the Coffee Shop for a sandwich and a drink. Bathrooms are also available.
4. There are several operating artist studios in various buildings around the campus. These studios are a little more visitor friendly but you may wait until you are invited into the space. If the door is open and the studio is open you are usually welcome to walk around and look but not touch. Much of the work is fragile, drying, not complete, or is a stage that should not be touched.
5. **Once you have walked as much as you like, there are several paths back to the parking areas.**

[Click here for a walking map.](#)

Additional notes / points of interest

Please keep the noise down around the school while visiting and walking. Keep animals on the leash. Do not enter classrooms or studios uninvited and do not touch anything in the classrooms or studios. **REMEMBER:** This is a working school. Have respect for the students and residents. Again, there are several brochures and additional maps in the Gallery and some of the Gallery personnel may answer your questions and there is a very informative video in the Gallery that is worth watching if you are not familiar with the school.

Mitchelldales.org