

Carotid canal

Is the passage way in the [temporal bone](#) through which the [internal carotid artery](#) enters the [middle cranial fossa](#) from the neck.



The canal starts on the inferior surface of the [temporal bone](#) at the external opening of the carotid canal (also referred to as the carotid foramen). The canal ascends at first vertically, and then, making a bend, runs horizontally forward and medialward. The canal's internal opening is near the [foramen lacerum](#) above which the internal carotid artery passes on its way to the [cavernous sinus](#).

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