

OUTSIDE INN



INDEPENDENCE TRAIL

DIRECTIONS:

From the Inn Town Campground, turn right on Bost Ave towards the freeway. Take a left on Hollow Way and turn From the Outside Inn, turn left on East Broad Street. At the stoplight, turn left onto Highway 49 towards North San Juan and Downieville. Drive 6 miles north on Highway 49, Independence Trail is on the right before the river crossing. It is well marked.

If there is no parking in the first lot on the right, there is a second parking lot around the next turn, on the right. The Highway 49 river crossing is just down the road a half mile, and has a large parking lot as well, where you can park for a post hike dip in the summer.

THE TRAIL:

West Trail: 3+ miles; East Trail: 2.5+ miles

The Independence Trail is perfect for kids and dogs (on leashes). It is wheelchair accessible, however the trail is not open to bikes.

Founded by John Olmstead, the trail was built in a former aqueduct that once carried water to a hydraulic mining outfit in Smartsville, the Independence Trail is well maintained and very flat. The trail starts by either taking the East trail or the West trail, from the head off Highway 49. The highlight of the trail comes at around 1 mile out on the West trail at flume 28. Flume 28 is a long wooden flume high above the canyon of Rush Creek. Wooden switchbacks take you down to a creek side sitting area.

Certain times of the year, you will find lots of orange salamanders around the creek. While the West trail is popular for the views, take the East trail if you want to add a swim to your hike. If you do choose to go for a swim, be very careful on the trails that lead to the river. The trails are steep and made up of loose dirt and poison oak is prevalent. The ends of the trail are not maintained.

Grab a brochure at the trailhead to familiarize yourself with the trail's courtesy guidelines.



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