

# Indian Creek Trail (#15 on the ASRA Topo Trail Map)



**Distance:** 2 miles one-way; 1 hour hiking

**Difficulty:** Easy, but the trail is narrow with steep drop-offs to the river. Hardest portion is reaching the trailhead on the west side of Shirrtail Creek.

**Slope:** 4% max. (see below)

## Trailhead / Parking (N39-02-410;W120-54-189)

Trailhead is off Yankee Jim's Road on the North Fork American River near Shirrtail Creek.

Take I-80 to Colfax. Exit at Colfax and turn right (west) onto Canyon Way. After approx. 0.8 miles, turn left (south) onto Yankee Jim's Road. The road will quickly become gravel. Yankee Jim's Rd. is narrow, twisting, and without guardrails. It descends rapidly to the North Fork of the American River. Drive slowly. Hikers, rafters and miners frequently use the road, and visibility around the narrow curves is limited. For those not driving, there are some great views down the cliff on the right. At the river, there is limited parking on either side of the 1930 single vehicle suspension bridge. Cross the bridge, by car or on foot depending on parking availability.

After crossing the bridge, look for rock stairs down to the North Fork American River on the

left. The first set of stairs is wide but uneven. Another set of stairs, not as wide but generally in better shape, is just ahead around the bend.

The trail proper is on the other side of Shirrtail Creek. Depending on water level, wade or boulder hop across Shirrtail Creek. Once on the far side of the creek you will see the trail up the bank from the river.

## DESCRIPTION

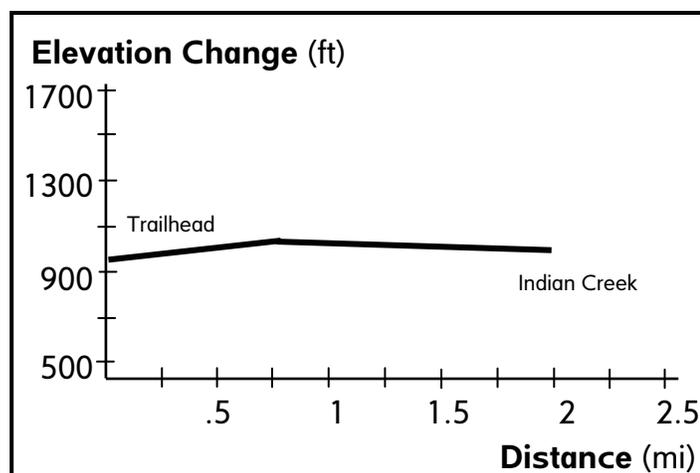
*This easy trail offers a fun summer hike. It allows you to enjoy the American River Canyon without having to hike in or out. It offers great views up and down the canyon as well as many opportunities to take a dip. Canyon live oaks and other foothill trees keep much of the trail in the shade, which is welcome in summer. You are seldom out of sight or sound of the river.*

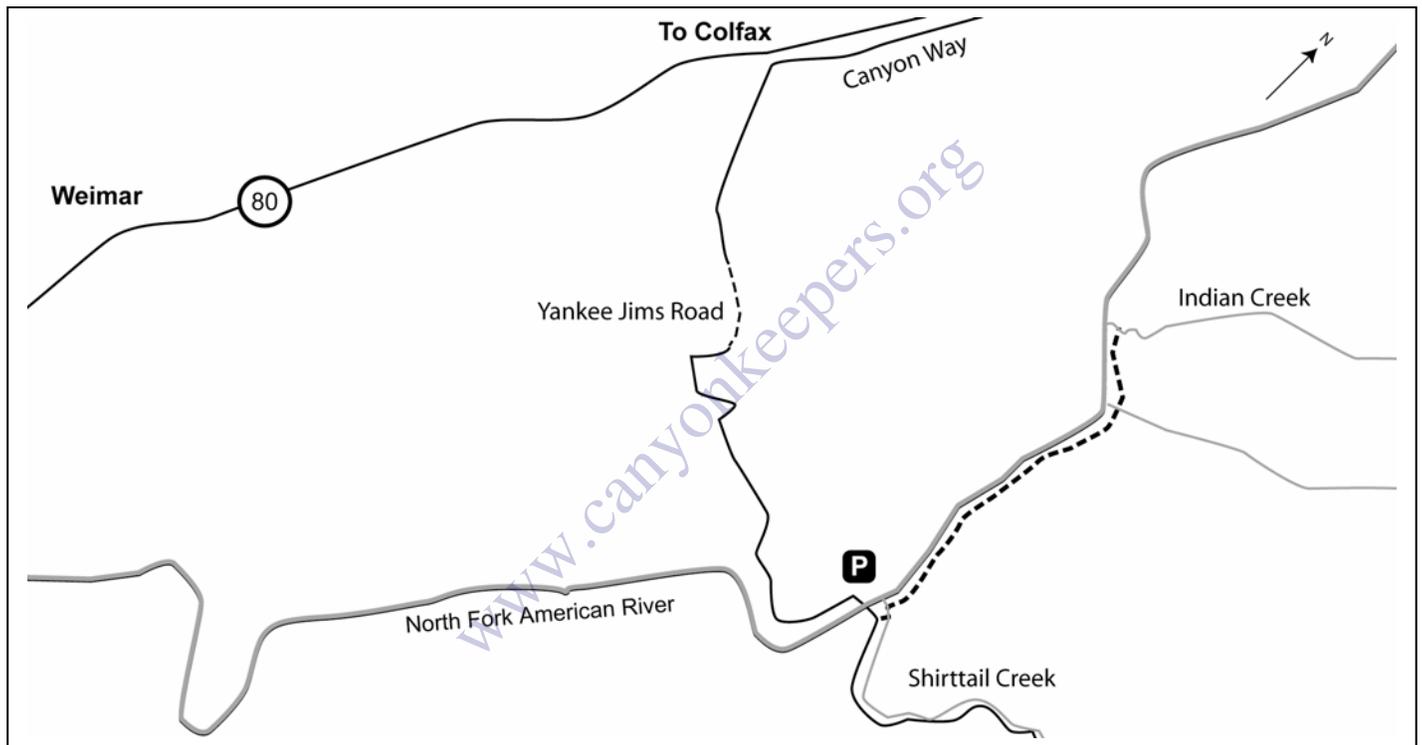
**Indian Creek Trail** goes from Shirrtail Creek to Indian Creek. This narrow but easy trail is cut into the hillside above the south bank of the North Fork American River. While there are some ups and downs, there is little significant elevation gain or loss. It offers many nice views of the river canyon. The hardest portion is at the beginning where Shirrtail Creek must be crossed to reach the trail proper.

The trail is unmarked but once across Shirrtail Creek, it is visible just up the bank from the river.

Several side trails drop down to the river along the way. Whenever there is a choice, on your way to Indian Creek, always choose the right or uphill fork since the downhill choice always leads to the river. The slopes are steep so please stay on the trails.

The trail crosses two tributary streams, both of which are easily crossed. The first is usually dry in summer. Shortly after this, the trail crosses the larger Salvation Ravine with its almost year round water flow, just prior to arriving at Indian Creek and the end of the trail.





Although not generally recommended, there is a small, steep, overgrown and challenging trail that leads upstream to a large pool fed by a double waterfall. This is a nice photo spot.

Time of the year is important on this trail. If you go too early in the spring and too much water is

flowing, access is a problem. If you go too late in the fall, the waterfalls are a disappointing trickle.

This trail is one of the few that provide a fun river canyon experience without having to hike up or down the canyon.