



Trail Canyon Falls Trail Guide

DISTANCE: 3.7 Miles Roundtrip
ELEVATION: 2600'
ELEVATION GAIN: 700'
TYPE: Out-and-Back
HIKING TIME: 1.5 Hours
RATING: Moderate

Directions to Trailhead

19600 North Trail Canyon Road
Angeles National Forest
Tujunga, CA 91042

From the 210 Freeway, exit at Sunland Blvd. and head north. Just past the Ralph's Supermarket (approximately .4 mile), Sunland becomes Foothill Blvd. Continue straight on Foothill Blvd for another .4 mile and turn left onto Oro Vista Ave. Follow Oro Vista for .88 mile to where it makes a sharp right turn and becomes Big Tujunga Canyon Road. Continue on Big Tujunga for 4.4 miles and turn left onto North Trail Canyon Road/Forest Route 3N29. North Canyon Trail is a dirt road and not well marked, so watch for it. In .2 mile, North Trail Canyon Road and the Forest Route diverge. Take the fork on the right and continue about .5 mile to the parking area.



Parking

Park in the dirt lot opposite the trailhead signs.



Trailhead

Follow the signpost past the trailhead information signs along N Trail Canyon Road to the yellow metal gate. Pass around the gate and continue on N Trail Canyon Road. The first trail junction is about .12 mile ahead.



Trail Junction 1 - .07 mile

Bear left and stay on the main road, hiking past the stone barbecue pit on your right. Continue .25 to the next trail junction.



Trail Junction 2 - .27 mile

A dirt road veers off the trail to the left and downhill between two oak trees. You should follow the trail marker and continue straight on the main road, heading uphill. Just past the trail marker you will pass

a thin metal signpost indicating the trail is not maintained past this point. Fear not. With the exception of a very short section of the upper wash, the trail is easily followed. Continue approximately .38 mile to the next trail junction.



Trail Junction 3 - .68 mile

The trail appears to hairpin at this point, but following the hairpin leads to the ruins of several cabins destroyed in the 2009 Station Fire. Resist the urge to follow the hairpin and continue straight toward the tall dead pine. You will see the trail drop down from the curve of the hairpin. Here you will descend into the wash and for the next .75 mile or so, you will be following the creek bed in the Trail Canyon Wash, fording the stream at several points.



First Footbridge - .7 mile

A wider section of stream is crossed via a footbridge fashioned from several logs wrapped with metal fencing.



Second Footbridge - .8 mile

Cross the stream again on a second footbridge comprised of two logs and packed mud. (Position is approximate)



The Wash Boulder Field -1.1 miles

The closeness of the Canyon opens up as you enter a wide section of wash covered in boulders. This is a newer section of trail, with the original trail running parallel to your right. The original trail through this section was mostly lost during the 2009 Station Fire. Because this trail is no longer maintained, it can be difficult to follow in about 250 feet. You will want to cross the creek on your left and begin climbing on the Upper Trail. If you are unsure, look for the cluster of oak trees at your 10 or 11 o'clock position. The trail runs right past them. Once you pick up the trail again, it is well delineated all the way to the falls.



Cluster of Oak Trees – 1.17 miles

As you reach the top of the wash, the trail will become less defined. Look for this cluster of oak trees, the trail runs right past them. Follow the hairpin turn directly ahead and stay on the trail with the rusted metal guardrails. There is a spur trail off the hairpin that leads to a false, mostly dry waterfall that is often mistaken for the Trail Canyon Falls.



False Waterfall – 1.2 miles

There is a waterfall located here that can pull you off the main trail, thinking you've reached your destination. But you haven't! This fall is usually dry except immediately following a heavy rain. Other times it is a mere trickle or completely dry. Even so, it is easy to step off the main trail onto the spur trail leading to this dry fall. Don't be distracted. Stay on the hairpin curve and look for the metal guardrails so you know you are on the right trail.



First View of Falls – 1.7 miles

As you reach the upper perimeter of the canyon, the trail levels out and makes a sharp 90° turn to the right. Here you will get your first glimpse of the falls about .25 mile distant.



Top of the Falls Lookout – 1.85 miles

Congratulations! You've reached the top of Trail Canyon Falls. Continuing on the main trail a short distance will allow you to cross the creek and reach the head of the falls directly. Bear in mind the rocks are slippery and you should not venture out onto the falls themselves. Help is a long ways away and there is no cell phone service in the canyon.



Base of the Falls

About 200' before the Top of the Falls Lookout, you will pass a steeply descending spur trail that leads to the base of the falls and a small wading pool surrounded by the moss covered wall of Trail Canyon. Attempt this trail at your discretion and use extreme caution. It will require scrambling down rocks.