

## Corral Creek

### Overview

If you are pressed for time or are looking for a flat hike, Corral Creek is a solid option. It shares a trailhead with Proctor Mountain, so it is easily accessible and offers plenty of parking. The hike itself is unspectacular, but does offer views of the Boulder Mountain foothills, the front side of the Pioneer range and, towards the end, Bald Mountain. Most of the hike traverses an open meadow with much of the second half on a ledge overlooking the beautiful, tree-lined Trail Creek.

### The Numbers

3.6-mile semi-loop

315 feet total elevation gain

Ascent Grade: 2.7% (Easy)

### Water

There is a pond near the beginning of the hike and there is a fantastic watering hole at the 2.2-mile mark. Most of the hike is in full sun, so it is advised to carry some water.

### Drive

From downtown Ketchum, it is an easy 2.6-mile drive with all on paved roads. [Click here](#) for directions to the trailhead. There are about 30 parking spots on either side of the street, but spots can still get scarce by mid-morning during the summer.

There are no bathroom facilities at the trailhead.



Parking and Trailhead

### Season

May through November

### Route

Go straight for a few steps and come to the Hemingway Memorial.



Hemingway Memorial

Wind to your right and around the memorial. Go downhill and come to a T-junction with a wide path. Turn left.



First Junction (Turn Left)

Follow the main path with Trail Creek flowing on your right. At .18 miles, the path splits. Veer left again. A few steps later, bird dogs may find a few ducks to chase in a pond to the right. At .35 miles, Sun Valley Company's Trail Creek Cabin property will appear before you. It is an extremely popular venue for weddings in the spring through fall, so to avoid crashing the party, it is advised to [follow this alternative](#) route on weekend afternoon hikes. It will add only a tenth of a mile but nearly 170 feet climb to the hike.



Trail Creek Cabin property (Turn Right)

Turn right onto the paved road, cross a bridge, and come to a T-junction. Turn left.



T-junction (Turn Left)

Continue on the path that skirts the backside of Trail Creek Cabin and after a small hill, come to the proper start of the hike at .65 miles. The Aspen Loop trail will veer off to the right through the woods, but continue straight.



First junction with Aspen Loop (Stay Straight)

Just before the .8 mile mark, you will enter a large sun-soaked meadow. As you enter the meadow, notice the path to your left. This is where the Corral Creek loop will end and you will re-connect with the trail to head back to the trailhead.

You will come to a series of junctions over the next .6 miles. Always take the most clearly defined path.

- At .83 miles, stay to the right;
- At the signed junction with Aspen Loop, stay left;
- At 1 mile, stay right;
- At 1.25 miles, stay right and pass through a small grove of aspen trees;
- At the signed multi-junction with Trail Creek Trailhead, etc, stay straight.



.83 miles (Stay Right)

.9 miles (Stay Straight).

1 mile (Stay Right)

(1.25 miles (Stay Right)

1.4 miles (Stay Right)

The trail rises slightly as you pass a hillside and at 1.7 miles, you will enter a stand of tall, fire-damaged trees. Quickly arrive at a junction. The path straight ahead continues into the forest for a number of miles to Corral Creek Road, but is mainly used by mountain bikers. Instead of following that, turn left and be careful with your footing as you scurry down a rocky hill.



Junction (Turn Left)

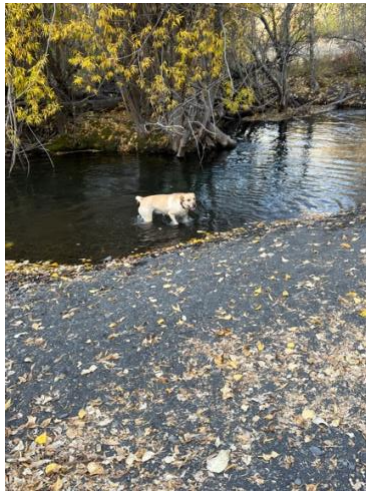
As you descend the short hill, you will hear Trail Creek flowing from down the slope to your right. As you complete the wide left turn, Bald Mountain will dominate the horizon before you. The trail continues along the right edge of the top level of the meadow and eventually the beautiful Trail Creek comes into view. Just after the 2-mile mark, there is a four-way junction. If you have a dog, we suggest taking a right turn and heading down the hill towards the creek. At the bottom of the hill, take a hard left turn to continue along the path. At 2.2 miles, there is an excellent watering hole for dogs.



2.05 miles (Turn Right)



Bottom of hill (Hard Left)



Watering Hole

Climb the short hill at 2.3 miles to re-connect to the original trail. Come to a junction at 2.7 miles and stay right.



2.7 miles (Stay Right)

The loop ends at a junction at 2.82 miles, marking the start of Section 3. Re-trace your steps back to the trailhead.

**Corral Creek**  
**(Alternate Route to Avoid Events at Trail Creek Cabin)**

Go straight for a few steps and come to the Hemingway Memorial.



Hemingway Memorial

Wind to your right and around the memorial. Go downhill and come to a T-junction with a wide path. Turn left.



First Junction (Turn Left)

Follow the main path with Trail Creek flowing on your right. At .18 miles, the path splits. Veer right and cross a bridge over the creek.



Second Junction (Veer Right)

Directly after the bridge, turn left and head up a very short, somewhat steep hill. At .23 miles, turn left at the top of the hill.



Third Junction (Turn Left) Fourth Junction (Turn Left)

As you wind around the hillside, you will see Trail Creek Cabin to your left. After a short descent, you will come to a junction at .37 miles. The trail to the left takes you to Corral Creek.



Junction after descent at about .37 miles (Turn Left)

The trail descends until it reaches Sun Valley's Trail Creek Cabin facility with a junction coming in from your left at about .53 miles. Trail Creek Cabin is an extremely popular venue for weddings in the spring through fall, so control your dogs as you stay straight and skirt the backside of the property.



Entrance to Trail Creek Cabin facility (Stay Straight)

After a small hill, come to the proper start of the hike at .75 miles. The Aspen Loop trail will veer off to the right through the woods, but continue straight.



First junction with Aspen Loop (Stay Straight)

Just before the mile mark, you will enter a large sun-soaked meadow. As you enter the meadow, notice the path to your left. This is where the loop will end and you will re-connect with the trail to head back to the trailhead.

You will come to a series of junctions over the next .6 miles. Always take the most clearly-defined path.

- At .9 miles, stay to the right;
- At the signed junction with Aspen Loop, stay left;
- At 1.05 mile, stay right;
- At 1.3 miles, stay right and pass through a small grove of Aspen trees;
- At the signed multi-junction with Trail Creek Trailhead, etc, stay straight.



.9 miles (Stay Right)



.97 miles (Stay Straight)



1.05 mile (Stay Right).



1.3 miles (Stay Right)



1.47 miles (Stay Right)

The trail rises slightly as you pass a hillside and at 1.75 miles, you will enter a stand of tall, fire-damaged trees. Quickly arrive at a junction. The path straight ahead continues into the forest for a number of miles to Corral Creek Road, but is mainly used by mountain bikers. Instead of following that, turn left and be careful with your footing as you scurry down a rocky hill.



Junction (Turn Left, Go Down Hill)

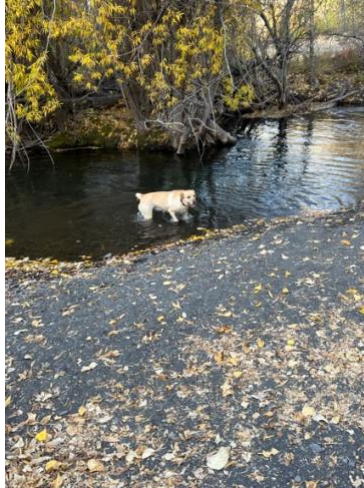
As you descend the short hill, you will hear Trail Creek flowing from down the slope to your right. As you complete the wide left turn, Bald Mountain will dominate the horizon before you. The trail continues along the right edge of the top level of the meadow and the beautiful Trail Creek comes into view. Just after the 2.13 mile mark, there is a four way junction. If you have a dog, we suggest taking a right turn and heading down the hill towards the creek. At the bottom of the hill, take a hard left turn before the steel bridge to continue along the path. At 2.27 miles, there is an excellent watering hole for dogs.



2.13 miles (Turn Right)



Bottom of hill (Hard Left)



Watering Hole

Climb the short hill just before the 2.4-mile mark to re-connect to the original trail. Come to a junction at 2.75 miles and stay right.



2.8 miles (Stay Right)

The loop ends at a junction at about 2.9 miles. Re-trace your steps back to the trailhead.