



Trail 25—Donut Falls/Doughnut Falls

*kid friendly

Duration: 2 hours

Distance: 3.5 miles out-and-back

Difficulty: Easy

Trailhead: Mill D Trailhead/south side of the road—Parking; Donut Falls trailhead

Elevation: Mill D Trailhead: 7268; atop Donut Falls: 7800'

Avalanche: Terrain trap. Dangerous during high avalanche conditions

Map: USGS 7.5 Mount Aire

GPS Coordinates: none

Dogs: Not allowed in Big Cottonwood Canyon

Introduction: Donut Falls, or Doughnut Falls, is so named because of the round hole through which the fall flows. Over years of pounding on the rock, the water eventually carved a hole and now the water falls *through* the rock. Donut Falls was closed to public access from 2004 through 2006. The falls were purchased by Salt Lake County in 2007 and are now, once again, open to public use. The highlights that make this such a popular destination is the fun waterfall at the top and the relatively easy navigation to get there. Beginners will enjoy this trip as much as the veteran snowshoers.

How to get there: Drive east up Big Cottonwood Canyon for 9.1 miles to Mill D trailhead. Park on the south side of the road.

Trail description: The route to Donut Falls is popular, well-used, and relatively easy to navigate.

Cardiff road is gated off during the winter and passes through summer homes and Jordan Pines Campground. Follow this road south for .75 mile as it will take you to the Donut Falls trailhead.

Donut Falls trailhead has a restroom (which may be closed), and a trail board that marks the route. The trail begins to the west of the summer parking area between the vault toilet and trail board. The trail begins from here by snaking through the forest for a half mile and then crossing a stream on a small bridge. On the other side of the bridge a 4-wheel drive road intersects with the trail. Donut Falls is .5 mile from this point. Turn south on this road and follow it for a hundred yards where it will then turn back into a trail that makes its way through the trees and near the stream that runs down from Donut Falls. Return following the same route.