



Trail 47--Rail Trail

**kid friendly*

Duration: Determined by how far you go

Distance: 28 miles one-way

Difficulty: Easy

Trailheads: (6): Park City trailhead; Jordanelle trailhead; Star Point trailhead; Wanship trailhead; Coalville trailhead; Echo trailhead

Elevation: 6900'-5280' if starting in Park City

Avalanche: None

Map: Park City East 7.5' quadrangle

GPS Coordinates: None needed

Dogs: Allowed on leash

Introduction: The Rail Trail follows the old Union Pacific railroad tracks from Park City, along I-80, through Wanship, Coalville, and ends at Echo Reservoir. This historic trail is for non-motorized users, year round. During the winter, a snowshoe race is even held on the Rail Trail. The trail is easily accessed from downtown Park City and you can make your trip as long or short as you wish. Facilities are being developed along the trail, and sections of it are groomed. The key feature of the trail is a smooth flat run for as far as you care to go. Trailheads are well marked.

The railroad dates back to the 1880's. Silver was mined and shipped out, while coal was shipped in to run the mines. With the decline of the mines, the railroad also fell into decline and was eventually, through a big local volunteer effort, deeded to the State of Utah as a linear state park. Today it is managed by the state with assistance from the Mountain Trails Foundation in Park City.

How to get there: 1. Park City trailhead: In Park City, take Kearns Blvd. to Bonanza Drive. A Rail Trail sign sits on the right side of the road. About 200 feet past the sign, turn onto Prospector Ave. and then right into the parking lot for the Rail Trail. The trail sits at the south side of the parking lot, next to White Pine Touring. 2. Jordanelle trailhead: From Salt Lake City take I-80 E. to exit 146—US40 E toward Heber City. From US 40, take exit 4 toward Park City. Head right on SR 248 for .6 mile. Turn left at an unmarked road. Go .1 mile to parking pullout on the left, and another .25 mile to the Rail Trail. 3. Star Point trailhead: Take I-80 to US 40. Take exit 2-Silver Summit. Turn left and travel .6 mile to Promontory Ranch Road. Turn left. The Rail Trail sits a half mile down this road. A large parking area, pit toilet, and train station bench mark the trailhead 4. Wanship trailhead: Take I-80 E. to exit 155 toward Wanship. Turn left off exit. Go .10 of a mile to the Rail Trail. It sits next to an LDS church at the intersection of U-32 and US189. 5. Coalville trailhead: Take I-80 E. to exit 162--Coalville. Stay right at the 'Y'. The Rail Trail crosses the road right in front of you, but to find the trailhead and parking area, follow signs for the Rail Trail. Travel .2 of a mile to Main St. turn left and go a half mile to 200 N. Turn left on 200 N. The Rail Trail trailhead sits a few hundred feet down the road. Immediately after exiting, the Rail Trail crosses the road as you head toward town. Find a place to park and backtrack to the trail. 6. Echo trailhead: Echo Reservoir is found past Coalville along I-80. One access point is through Coalville where you will turn left on the main drag and head 7 miles north. The trail is accessible along the road in several places along the reservoir.

Trail Description: The Rail Trail is a Utah State Park and is well marked with mileage signs all along the route. Elevation fluctuations are minimal. The trail covers a 28-mile stretch with opportunities for wildlife viewing. The trail, in areas, follows close to roads, and in other places takes you out across the landscape into wetlands. The trail is approximately vehicle width, so larger groups can walk side by side if desired. The pluses of this trail are the multiple access points, the versatility for family, dog walking, or trail running, and the length of the trail which gives you more than a day's worth of options for your enjoyment. There are no worries about finding your way along this route as the trail is obvious even on a fresh powder day. You can leave shuttle cars at various trailheads or make it an out-and-back trip.