

Telluride-to-Moab Alternative Singletrack Options

Day 1

Day 1 Alternate 1: Galloping Goose to Deep Creek. 18.4 miles, ascent 3,530ft, descent 1,388ft.

This is fun, flowey, moderate to intermediate singletrack that is almost all downhill. Once you cross the highway you will have a substantial uphill climb up the Deep Creek Rd to regain the standard route. This is the recommended route for riders looking for singletrack who are already somewhat acclimated.

The town of Telluride is nestled in a box canyon in the beautiful San Juan Mountains. It stretches from east to West, and hwy 145 is the main access to the town. On the south side of town, there is free gondola transportation service available. This is located on West San Juan Avenue at the corner of South Oak Street. This is the start of the alternate single track option for day 1 of the Telluride to Moab trip.

1. While standing at the corner of W. San Juan Ave. and S. Oak St. facing south, the gondola station (signed Station Telluride) will be in front of you. Turn to the west and start riding in that direction one block towards Aspen St. approximately 200 feet. At the intersection of Aspen St and W. San Juan Ave, you will find a path. This is marked with a sign that reads "Multiuse River Trail." No motorized vehicles are allowed on this path, and it is easily identified by a fire hydrant on the right side (north) of the path and large green utility power boxes on the left (south). Follow this path west. While bicycles are allowed on this path, please be considerate of other pedestrians and trail users, and ride with caution. This path runs parallel between the creek and the adjacent road. Follow this path approximately 3/4 mile until you reach the intersection of W. Pacific Ave. and Mahoney Drive.
2. At the intersection of W. Pacific Ave and Mahoney Drive, turn south and cross the bridge. Immediately after crossing the bridge, turn right and get back on the same path you were on before the bridge. This path is the continuation of the multiuse River Trail. Follow this path west. This path becomes locally known as the "Valley Floor Trail." Follow this trail west and stay on it. DO NOT turn onto other alternate single track options, stay on the main path. This trail becomes mostly single track. While it is mostly flat, you will encounter some technical areas with roots and rocks. Continue west until you reach the intersection of the Valley Floor Trail and Hwy. 145.
3. At the intersection of the Valley Floor Trail and Hwy. 145, proceed with caution and cross Hwy 145. Directly across the highway, you will begin riding on Society Drive for approximately .5 miles. You will ride by a Conoco gas station, a lumber yard and, at the top of the hill, you will see the Telluride Mountain School on your right. As soon as you pass the school on your right, the first intersection is called San Miguel River Rd. At that point, make a "hairpin" U-turn and begin riding the path in front of you. This is the connector between Society Drive and Galloping Goose Trail. This path is identified by its gravel floor and tall aspen trees. You will also pass the school playground on your right. Follow this trail for approximately .5 miles. You will encounter a short steep descent (rocky) and then continue westward on the Galloping Goose Trail. This trail will turn into single track. It is a lot of fun and you can get great speed on it. Be aware that some sections may have sharp rocks and tight spaces to ride through. Follow this trail until you reach Rd. 625 that parallels the South Fork of the San Miguel River.
4. Once you've reached Rd. 625, cautiously cross the road. Across the road you will see a large map and sign that reads "Galloping Goose trail" on the left, as well as a smaller wooden sign on the right that reads "Galloping Goose Trail No. 499." Follow that trail and continue on down towards a short bridge crossing a creek. Cross the bridge and stay to the right and on the trail now riding north. Follow the trail for about one mile until you come to a trailhead. The trail will be blocked with some rocks (to prevent vehicles from driving on the trail). You will be at Rd. 63J, and you will see a small sign that reads "Galloping Goose" with an arrow pointing left. Turn left onto Rd. 63J and ride for approximately 500 feet. At the top of the first hill and to the right, you will find a double track. Turn right onto this double track. This is the continuation of the Galloping Goose Trail. This trail is identified by gravel and dirt floor, single and double track. You will pass an old railroad mining structure on your left. Feel free to stop and explore and read the sign with historical information. Please DO NOT climb on or remove any historical structures in that area.

5. Continue riding north and follow the trail as it turns into narrow singletrack. This trail follows a private property line. Please do not ride in any other areas other than on this trail. You will encounter a short steep climb (probably best to walk it) and then a short, steep descent. After the descent, the trail will end on L63 Rd. At this intersection, turn right and follow the road across a bridge with guardrails on each side. Immediately after crossing the bridge, turn left (west) onto a single track path. This path is not named and it follows the creek. Follow this path going west for about one mile. After one mile, the trail will seem to disappear. However, you will approach an open area resembling a large dirt and grass parking lot. You will see a short drive entering this area, accessing from Hwy. 145. If, at this point, you do not see or hear vehicles driving close by, you are in the wrong spot.

6. From this large open area, find the exit to Hwy. 145. Ride up to the highway and, with CAUTION, cross Hwy. 145 and begin riding west (away from the town of Telluride). Ride for .25 miles until you reach mile marker 75 and a brown Forest Service sign that reads "National Forest Access-Deep Creek." Turn right onto this road. This is 639 RD. You will travel NNW on 639 Rd. for exactly 2 miles until you reach a stop sign. At this point you will rejoin the Standard Route at Mile 8.3 and continue to climb up to Last Dollar Pass and hut.

Day 1, Alternate 2: Deep Creek Trail. 16.7 miles, ascent 4,457ft, 2,337ft.

Deep Creek is an option for REALLY fit advanced riders looking to get a hard work out in right off the bat. This is a steep technical mostly uphill trail that will require some hike-a-bike for all but the most skilled and fit riders. This trail is the most wild option and has some beautiful sections. Unfortunately it has not been maintained well in the past few years and there are some sections that are really rutted out.

1. Head east out of town on the bike path for a mile and a half.
2. Turn right on to Mill Creek Road, just west of the gas station. This is where the climbing begins.
3. After a half mile of climbing, continue on Mill Creek Road as it switches back to the right, passing Eider Creek Trail on your left. (Eider Creek Trail is a singletrack option to catch the Deep Creek Trail, but know that this trail is steep and gains 1,170' in 1.6 miles).
4. Continue straight on Mill Creek Trail (No. 627) when the road turns to trail at a closed water treatment plant. Follow Mill Creek Trail along the creek.
5. Turn right (west) on Deep Creek Trail (No. 418). The next 5.5 miles is rolling with intermittent vistas amongst wooded trail. The final two miles down to Last Dollar Road are mainly downhill and flowey.
6. Turn right on Last Dollar Road, rejoining the Standard Route (mile 8) at this point. Don't forget Last Dollar Road is also uphill from this point up to the pass and the hut!

Day 1, Alternate 3: Telluride Ski Area Trails to the Galloping Goose.

If you are looking for some free (both \$ and calories) downhill fun in the morning, take the gondola up and ride the resort trails. Please see the resort bike map.

Day 2

There are no alternate routes from Last Dollar Hut to Spring Creek, but if you still have gas in the tank when you reach Spring Creek Hut, check out some of the singletrack nearby. There are a variety of trails that start near the Spring Creek Hut. The best way to get more information on these trails is from [Tommy's Extra Special Trail Map for the Uncompahgre Plateau](#). Note the trail descriptions on the side of the map. There is a copy of this map at the Spring Creek Hut.

Day 3

Day three really is a 'choose your own adventure', i.e. you can ride technical remote singletrack, intermediate singletrack, or double track. There are almost a hundred miles of trails that one could ride between Spring Creek and Columbine Hut. Some of these are more maintained than others. It is also generally easy to rejoin the Standard Route

throughout the day. We recommend adding or subtracting legs of singletrack depending on your endurance. Because of this, we have not written this description with sequential miles. Please note that doing the entire singletrack described below is 46.7 miles, gains 4,610 ft., drops 4,608 ft., and is a very long day for most riders.

The following is a link up that includes the trails we enjoy the most and seem most reasonable. This is also the same path as the GPS track for the Day 3 Alternate Singletrack.

1. The Fence Trail: From the Spring Creek Hut, go up the trail to the road you came in on and turn right, the way you came in on Day 2. After less than 1/2 mile, look for cairns through a meadow on your right. The trail soon parallels a wire fence and a black water pipe. After half mile you will come out on the Divide Road.

2. Rim Trail/ East Spring Creek No 1: Primarily rough double-track and easy singletrack, enjoyable for less technical riders. Go right (west) for a little less than a mile and then turn left onto East Spring Creek No. 1, a double track. After a couple miles, you will pass a nice viewpoint on your left with a large pile of stones and great views of the San Juan Mountains. (This section of trail is not well maintained and can be skipped by staying on the Standard Route until the East Spring Creek Trail.)

3. Rejoin the Divide Road and continue west for a just over a quarter mile.

4. Clear Creek Trail: Fun intermediate singletrack. Go left onto the Clear Creek Trail. The first couple hundred yards of this trail are truck width, but it soon turns into fun singletrack that flows through meadows and aspen groves. The uphill at the end can be hard to ride and many of us walk sections of it. Note: This trail may be MUDDY if it rains.

5. Rejoin the Standard Route, continuing west on the Divide Road.

6. Aspen Spur and Hornet: Moderate and intermediate rolling trails. Just past Road 523/Little Red Springs and mile 13.5 on the Standard Route, turn left onto Aspen Spur A (A.K.A Aspen Loop), there are several options in this area. This describes the most direct singletrack alternate which is primarily intermediate singletrack. Stay right on Hornet Spur and continued on Hornet Spur crossing Red Canyon Trail and several other unmarked singletracks. Hornet Spur will turn into Hornet, all singletrack. Cross Trail 549 (really a 4x4 road) and continue on the singletrack. Cross a dirt road, Old Hwy 90, and continue on Hornet Trail on the other side for more fun singletrack. If you ride up and right, you can rejoin the Standard Route at mile 16.1. Pass below Antone Springs and climb a few switchbacks. When the Hornet Trail dead-ends into the Powerline Trail No. 541, turn right and ride a couple hundred yards back to the Divide Road.

7. Parallel Trail: Cross the Divide Rd. and continue on the other side on the 4x4 of the Powerline Trail. In about 300 feet turn left onto the Parallel Trail No. 139. This trail is the width of a four-wheeler and is a good option for less technical riders looking to get off the main road. When the trail joins RD 548.1A for a short bit, continue SW until you cross Pool Creek Rd #548 and the Parallel Trail continues (this section is less than ¼ mile). At East Bull Rd. 546, you can either rejoin the Standard Route or continue. The new section of the Parallel Trail actually continues a couple miles farther than it does on maps and is worth riding.

Day 4

The Standard Route is quite enjoyable this day, and many folks find the 36.4 miles between two big singletrack days to be enough. If you have enough energy, there are some fun flowey trails that are worth riding.

The Bench Trail

1. After leaving Montrose County and entering Mesa County (Mile 13.3 in your Standard Route Description) start looking for Road 425 on your left.

2. Ride down this road until you can see it dead end into a closed gate of a private ranch. Just before the road goes onto this private property, the Bench Trail cuts off to your right.

3. Follow this flowing trail as it traversed the hillside until you reach the end of the trail

4. At the end of the trail, you will see a small cabin and a horse pasture. Stay on the trail and below the cabin until the trail joins the dirt road. Ride up this dirt road staying right at an intersection until you rejoin the gravel road and the Standard Route.

Divide Forks Cut Off/ Trail No. 639:

1. At mile 28.7 on the Standard Route, turn right off the main road toward the Cold Spring Ranger Station.
2. Pass the entrance to the ranger station on your right.
3. Pass through a draw and then pass the Smith Spur Rd. on your right. At this point both roads are jeep roads. Begin looking for a trail sign on your left for Divide Forks Cutoff/ Trail No. 639 and a singletrack that cuts to the left.
4. Take the Divide Forks Cutoff Trail No. 639 to the left.
5. Follow this rolling singletrack for just over two miles.
6. Regain the Standard Route at mile 32.4.

Day 5

Lots of quality, fun, downhill singletrack on this day as you drop from the Uncompahgre Plateau down into the Unaweep Canyon. Bring lots of water as the end of this day will likely be hot.

1. Big Creek Trail: Doubletrack and uphill intermediate singletrack. If you don't think you will be tired doing just the downhill singletrack, try this one as well. From Graham Ranch Hut, head down the draw NNE on cattle/game trails. Cross a barbed wire fence. *The trail becomes more defined the farther you go.* After just under a mile you will come out on a dirt road, Big Creek Road, head left toward the Casto Reservoir. Pass Castro Reservoir (locally known as Big Creek Reservoir) and then turn Left on Big Creek Ranch Rd. The dirt road will end at the Craig Number 2 Dam. Take the single track trail on the left (SE) side of the reservoir. This trail follows the Big Creek up the draw. After a short steep hill, at the top of the draw, you will come to a 4x4 road. Follow this road to the left and up to the Uranium Rd. and the Standard Route in a short distance. Follow the Uranium Rd. for less than a mile and then turn right onto the Ute Creek Trail.

2. Ute Creek Trail No. 608: This is fun, flowing singletrack that you really do not want to miss! The Ute Creek Trail turns off the Standard Route at mile 6.7 on the Standard Route. The trail descends down into the draw that is the headwaters for Indian Creek. After about ¾ mile you will see a faint trail going up to your left. There is a post in a meadow at this spot. Stay right at this point on the larger trail. This first section can be loose but the quality of the trail improves. The Ute Creek Trail will join the Snowshoe Road at a bend in the road. Go left (W) to rejoin the Standard Route at mile 20.6. Once at the Junction of Snowshoe Road/Trail, do not continue North down into Ute Creek Canyon. There are still several abandoned bikes down in this canyon. DO NOT GO DOWN here!

3. Big Pine: Stay on the Standard Route until mile 22.2 or take the less traveled Big Pine 4x4 road, that runs to the SW of, and parallels, the Standard Route. This is the point where Big Pine Rd. rejoins the Standard Route and is mile 22.2 on the Standard Route.

Day 6

This day has lots of climbing on the Standard Route and, if it is hot or there is a potential for rain/flash floods, you should skip the Gateway Trails and get up John Brown Canyon early in the morning. Another option is to ride them in the cool of the evening on Day 5. There are several fun intermediate loops of various lengths. Please see the Gateway Trails Map.

Day 7

This day has some world class singletrack descending into Moab.

Porcupine Singletrack: This trail is also known as the Upper Porcupine Singletrack (UPS) and the Lower Porcupine Singletrack (LPS) and is a classic you will not want to miss. Some areas are technical with severe consequences (falling off cliffs), so it is smart to walk sections. The views and unique riding are one-of-a-kind.

1. To find the UPS start paying attention at mile 14.4 on the Standard Route, after you turn onto the Kokepelli Trail FSR 4639 (which is actually a 4x4 road). The road parallels the edge of Castle Valley on the 'Porcupine Rim' for a bit. Soon you will see the UPS singletrack trail on your right as it continues to parallel the edge, while the main road will soon turn left away from the exposure.
2. Pass Porcupine Rim Campground which separates the UPS from the LPS. Sometimes there are closures for raptors and either half of the trail can also be accessed at this point (or from the Porcupine Rim Road) from the standard route.
3. Continue onto the LPS trail for more great riding.
4. The LPS connects to the Porcupine Rim 4x4 road. Stay on this rough road. In just under 6.5 miles you will come to a 'Y-Intersection': go left. In 1.8 more miles, the last part of the Porcupine Rim Singletrack will cut off to your left and descend along the edge of Jackass Canyon.
5. When you hit the pavement turn left and ride the 6 miles on road/pavement into Moab!