The Bikers’ Bible

A Guide for what you need, and what you don’t, to bike from Southwest Colorado to Moab, Utah!
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Hello Bike Adventurer!

San Juan Hut Systems’ mission is to provide low impact, human powered, lightweight backcountry travel opportunities for the independent health conscious adventurer at a practical price. We have devoted over twenty years to creating and defining destination hut-to-hut mountain bike travel. With the only destination hut-to-hut based system in the US, we take the weight out of bike packing by offering fully stocked huts and minimal route finding challenges. So, you are considering a ride on one of our 215 mile bike hut routes, or you have already reserved your departure date. To help you decide if this is a ride for you or to help you plan the trip, we have put together this, The Bikers’ Bible.

The Bikers’ Bible is intended to be a tool for you, the rider. It does not take the place of common sense and ultimately you are responsible for yourself out on the route. The Bikers’ Bible will answer your initial questions like how do I reserve a departure date, what do I need to bring, what is provided in the huts, and how do I get back to the trailhead, my car or the airport? San Juan Hut Systems supplies expert advice on all aspects of adventuring with us. Founder Joe Ryan’s knowledge and experience shows through in every aspect of the company. Feel free to call or email us with any questions or concerns you may have after reviewing the information provided here in the Bikers’ Bible.

San Juan Hut Systems also has a Blog and Facebook Page. This Blog and Facebook page are great places to find or share information about your trip. We intend for the Facebook page to be rider driven, providing riders with information from other users of the huts and trails. Get information and share your experiences here. You may also sign up for our e-newsletter to receive direct emails containing important information, new developments, and special promotions!

How to Use the Bikers’ Bible: For those who have reserved a departure date...print The Bikers’ Bible and take it on your ride! It contains valuable information for your ride while on route and at the hut and provides emergency contact numbers. At the very least, print out the emergency contact information and specific sections you think may be helpful for your group. For those deciding if you have what it takes to do one of our routes, use the Table of Contents to guide you to the information pertaining to your questions. Any contact information for services not provided by San Juan Hut Systems is listed in our Appendix.

So there you have it! Thank you for keeping the spirit of adventure alive! We here at San Juan Hut Systems look forward to providing you and your group an...

Adventure Without the Weight!

Policies and Procedures:

Reservations

• Your departure date is secured with a deposit of 50% of the total trip cost.
• The 50% deposit is non-refundable, but it can be extended to any available date in the original booking season or the next season.
• Adding last minute riders is not a problem if there is space left on your departure date. Departure dates can be changed based on availability.
• Group Reservations, call our office for the details pertaining to Group Reservations and discounts.
• Reservations are taken over the phone.

Final Payment

• Full payment is due no less than 30 days prior to your trip departure.
• You will receive an email reminder prior to this payment.
• The Route Maps and Hut Key are mailed once full payment and all paperwork is received. They will be available in the spring before the season begins.
• Payments made to San Juan Hut Systems are non-refundable, but can be used for another trip on a different date within the original booking season or the next.

Cancellations and Rescheduling Policy
• In the event one must cancel their reservation, you can reschedule for any day in the original booking season or the next. **Refunds are not issued** by San Juan Hut Systems.
• This rescheduling ‘credit’ is non-transferable and cannot be applied to any additional promotions, specials, or group rates that are offered by San Juan Hut Systems. In regards to Group Reservations, no ‘credit’ is offered for the ‘free rider/s’ if less than the number of riders offered by the group rate ride. For example, if your group pays for a 4 for 3 Group Rate Special and one rider cannot go, this rider cannot reschedule for the following season. If 2 rider out of this group do not ride, San Juan Huts would offer to reschedule one rider for the following season.
• Future reservations for hut trips are subject to rate increases.
• You may not reschedule an incomplete trip. However, if you need to leave the route for some reason, call us as soon as possible and we may be able to help you get back on track with your ride.

Route Descriptions, Maps and Hut Key
San Juan Hut Systems has a two part Route Packet that is provided to individual riders and group leaders who then disperse the packet to their group. The first part of The Route Packet is an email containing a Daily Standard Route Description, Alternate Route Overview, Supplemental Map Information, Liability Waiver, Group Roster, and Route Checklist. This information is sent at the time your reservation is made or in early April if you have booked your trip well in advance. Map/route revisions may alter this schedule. The second part of The Route Packet comes via the USPS and contains the key to unlock the huts and a set of maps that has been made for you, marking the Daily Standard Route and many of the alternates. This second part of the Route Packet is sent when full payments for the trip, the Liability Waiver(s) for you and your group, and current Group Roster are received.

**Planning Your Trip:**

Trip Dates
When planning your trip it is most beneficial to allow for at least one full day prior to your departure date at the elevation of your trailhead. This allows riders to begin acclimating to the altitude. The full routes are seven day/six night rides. It is best to plan on a late arrival in Moab on your seventh and final day of riding. The shorter rides are 4 night/5 day rides that end two days short of Moab. Similarly, expect to arrive at Gateway or Paradox late in the day.

Airports
• Riders may fly into Durango Airport for the Durango to Moab Route.
• Riders may fly into Montrose Regional Airport for the Telluride to Moab Route.
• Riders may fly into Grand Junction for the Telluride to Moab Route or the Durango to Moab Route, but be advised that this airport can be over three hours drive to either trailhead.
• Riders might be able to fly into Telluride for the Telluride to Moab Route, but be advised that luggage to this airport is sometimes delayed. **As of spring 2015, there are no commercial airlines servicing Telluride Airport.**
• Denver International Airport is an eight hour drive to either trailhead.

Transportation
Transportation considerations for your Bike Hut Trip vary for each route and depend on whether an individual or group is flying or driving. Three transportation considerations are:

1. Getting to your hotel and the trailhead from the airport.
2. Returning to the trailhead or the airport
3. What to do with your vehicle if not flying.

1. Getting To Your Hotel/Trailhead
When flying into Montrose and needing to get to the Telluride to Moab trailhead consider using one of several shuttle companies to shuttle riders, bikes, gear, or all three. These shuttle service can take you into the town of Telluride and drop you off at the front door of your hotel.

When flying into Durango and needing to get to the Durango to Moab trailhead, consider using Durango Transportation to shuttle riders, bikes, gear, or all three. This shuttle service will take you into the town of Durango and drop you off at the front door of your hotel. Please be advised that the trailhead for the Durango to Moab Route is approximately 25 miles outside of the town of Durango. The Silverpick Lodge and the Durango Mountain Resort are two establishments that are within one mile of the trailhead. Consider staying at one of these two lodges to avoid shuttle fees from Durango Airport to the town of Durango and then fees for shuttle services, and possible delays, to the trailhead on the morning of your departure date.

2. Returning to the Airport/Trailhead
Once you have completed your bike hut trip and are in Moab, you need to get back to the airport. Hire one of the many Moab shuttle companies listed on our website (http://www.sanjuanhuts.com/travel-resources) to get you back to your trailhead, and airport, or the towns of Telluride, Montrose, Durango or Grand Junction.

3. What To Do With Your Vehicle if not Flying
   - Where to leave your vehicle
   - Shuttling you/group from Moab back to the trailhead
   - Having your vehicle shuttled to Moab

When making your accommodation reservations consider arriving one full day before your departure date to acclimate to the altitude. Parking in the town of Telluride is a nightmare! Telluride presents a festival every weekend in the summer months and this can make parking interesting to say the least. Ask the hotel if you may leave your vehicle at the establishment until your return. Many places in Telluride have limited parking and do not allow for this. If this is the case, riders can leave their vehicles at the Telluride Airport. You can leave your vehicle for the duration of your bike ride and hire one of the shuttle companies in Moab to bring you back to Telluride. You can also hire a shuttle company to shuttle your vehicle to Moab. Prices vary; contact the shuttle companies for direct quotes. You may also call the Town of Telluride (970) 728-2151 or the San Miguel County Sheriff (970)728-1911 for the latest instructions on where they would like you to park in Telluride the week you are away.

Inquire about the individual policies of lodging establishments if you choose to stay in the town of Durango. Purgatory Resort (previously Durango Mountain Resort), located at the trailhead for the standard route, will allow guests and non-guests to leave their vehicles upon request, though they will not be responsible for vehicles or their contents. Contact them and identify that you are a San Juan Hut Systems client and need to park your car at the resort for the week. Before starting your trip, you can arrange for one of the shuttle companies, located in Moab, to shuttle you back to your vehicle. You can also hire some of them to shuttle your vehicle to Moab so that it is there when you arrive.

Where to Stay:
There are many choices to fit all budgets. Please check the appendix for a list of lodges by location or the Travel Resources option at www.sanjuanhuts.com.
Bikes:
We recommend that you ride your own bike if it is possible. This cuts down on the time spent learning how to ride foreign gear and avoids potential repair issues in the backcountry. Here are some local bike shops that rent bikes: **2nd Ave Sports, Peddle the Peaks** outside of Durango. **Paragon Ski & Sport/Boot Doctors in Telluride. Chili Pepper Bikes** and **Poison Spider** in Moab. **Cascade Bikes** in Montrose and Ridgway, which may be on your way. Contact information for these shops are listed in The Appendix. **High Country Shipping** is located in Telluride and can assist you, regardless of which route, with all your shipping needs.

Repair Kits and Bike Bags/Panniers
Under the Repair and Equipment List Section of this Bikers’ Bible, you will find the suggested repair equipment for bikes, for these routes. If you need help putting these together, you have a few options. Your local bike shop should be able to help you fit our repair list to your bike and skill set, just make sure they really know how much rugged and remote terrain you will be riding through! Hero Kit is a small company out of Crested Butte that puts together great, pre-packaged repair kits. Check them out at [HeroKit.com](http://www.hero-kit.com).

If you're looking for a one-stop shop for bikepacking bags, gear and advice before your trip, visit [Velorution Cycles](http://www.velorutioncycles.com). They’re a great bike shop in Durango with full service repairs and also have a comprehensive online store for bikepacking adventures. These guys have tons of bikepacking experience and can get your set-up fully dialed in before you start the route. Check them out at: [VelorutionCycles.com](http://www.velorutioncycles.com)

We recommend modern bike bags like the ones made by [Revelate Designs](http://www.revelate-designs.com) and [Bedrock Bags](http://www.bedrockbags.com) as opposed to more traditional touring gear. This is especially true if you want to have the most fun on singletrack where having a narrower load make a big difference. **Old Man Mountain Products**, a company out of California, makes more traditional pannier racks that will accommodate full suspension bikes. Just remember, when looking at all these cool bags, you really don’t need that much space. You should only need about 20 liters of space per person. One more note on bike bags, we *strongly* recommend against bike trailers. They swing your back tire out, are way to big and you will find lots of extra stuff to carry that you don’t need, and they will insure that you don’t get off on any of the fun alternates. Your friends will wish you did not have it.

Altitude & Health Considerations
These bike routes are demanding. Although they are well within the capabilities of many riders, you should not underestimate the difficulty of the trip. Riding three to seven hours a day for a week presents its own challenge. Pedaling at altitude will noticeably increase fatigue levels. We recommend spending a few days, and no less than 24 hours, acclimatizing at altitudes similar to those you will be riding at before heading out on the route. This will ease the shock placed on the body that accompanies leaping from near sea level elevations to 10,000 feet. Staying hydrated may be the single most important thing you do before and on this trip. Fluids lost can be difficult to replenish. A five percent decrease in fluid is likely to occur if you neglect proper hydration. Dehydration can equal upwards of a 20% loss in performance. Bring a hydration pack with at least a 100 oz. Reservoir (about 3 liters) and two water bottles. Use the bottles for mixed drinks, and the reservoir for straight water. Hydrate your way across the route and it will seem much friendlier. This trip gets hotter and drier as you progress west, so be on top of hydration and you will actually feel like having a couple of beers in Moab at the week’s end! Begin focusing on hydration three to five days before your trip, especially if you are a “caffeine junky”. Drink! Drink! Drink! Then drink some more. A 175-pound person needs an average of six liters a day, more if it is hot. Electrolyte mixes, like the Gatorade provided at the huts, are also important.

For the most up to date information on altitude illness go to this website:
http://www.hypoxia.net/index.htm
If you are currently taking medications or treatments that would compromise your body’s fluid levels or performance in the heat, please consult your physician before reserving your Bike Hut Trip and let your Group Leader be advised of any medical conditions.

**On the Route:**

**Human Powered:**
San Juan Hut Systems’ mission is to provide low impact, **human powered**, lightweight backcountry travel opportunities for the independent health conscious adventurer at a practical price. We do not allow vehicular support of any kind.

**Communication**
There is no guaranteed cellular service along either route. One may find cell service on the Telluride to Moab Route at the Gateway Hut on the fifth day of riding. On the Durango to Moab Route, you will find good cell service at the Wedding Bell Hut, the fourth hut. If you are not comfortable with this, we recommend bringing a Spot or Sat Phone.

**Weather**
It is entirely possible that your group will experience the full spectrum of weather conditions known to this planet over the course of your seven-day ride. A few years ago, a group from California departed the first week of June after an exceptionally snowy winter. The trail had several sections with snow. One five-mile section of the trail had continuous snow pack! They traveled these sections early, taking advantage of the firm frozen conditions. During days two and three, they encountered big wind and cold precipitation including quarter-sized snowflakes, slushy sleet, and freezing rain. The weather broke on day four, and it was glorious sunshine. They pedaled to the finish in unseasonably hot weather with temperatures topping 100 degrees Fahrenheit on the last leg to Moab.

For the first two weeks of our season in June and towards the end of our season in September, riders should augment their cold weather clothing over and above that on our suggested clothing list. It is common to experience late season snowstorms during the first three days of the trip when you are traveling through the high elevations. Be on the guard for the potential of hypothermia during these times. Be aware that it can snow like crazy here, even in July.

Bring everything that you could possibly need to Colorado and leave extra equipment in your car, at the lodging you stayed the night before or at the bike shop you are renting from. It would be a shame to get here, find you need it, and have to buy it again. **The day before your departure, check the National Weather Service Ten-Day Forecast!** A link to the local route weather from the National Weather Service web site is located on our web site under Weather.

**Lightning**
Lightning is a very serious consideration on this ride. It can be extremely violent on any part of the route, at any time during the riding season. Certain periods of the season however, will see more severe and widespread lightning. **Typically, the lightning season begins in early July and extends until mid September and coincides with the onset of the “afternoon monsoon.”** High lightning exposure areas include:

- On the Telluride to Moab Route, the second half of Day Two while on Horsefly Mesa and the entire Uncompahgre Plateau ridgeline on Day Four.
On the Durango to Moab Route, starting the second half of Day Three, until almost the end of Day Four, and as you approach the last hut in the Pine Flats area on Day Six.

Be aware of the phenomenon known simply as “afternoon buildup.” Cold mountain air pushes around hot air from the desert and, along with other barometric factors, culminates in a showdown that can let loose lightning and severe weather throughout the summer. This may occur as early as 11AM, and continue as late as 5PM. The extremes for most activity are between Noon and 4PM. Plan your departure and day’s ride to avoid these hours and the above-mentioned high lightning exposure areas on suspect days.

If caught in one of these storm systems, hunker down with your rain gear, deep in the forest (but not under a big tree!), and wait for the storm cell to pass. If caught in the open, stay away from fences! While your bike’s metal will not “attract” lightning, we do not advise sprinting downhill. Sprinting through sagebrush with loaded panniers and funny shoes in fear of your life is asking for its own trouble. Set your bike down gently, kiss it goodbye for the time being. Take cover in lower country or deep in the forest. If you are pinned-down and feel that the lowest, immediate ground is the safest, find a spot without water and crouch low. Maintain the lowest profile possible and keep minimal contact with the ground. Spread out so your group members are not near each other. Do this only if certain and immediate peril prevents you from moving around!

Mud and Snow

Mud and snow may be serious at times. Major storms roll over both the Telluride to Moab and Durango to Moab Routes. These storms can be intense, sometimes lasting 1 ½ - 2 days. The nature of the soils in this area makes for incredibly sticky slick mud. Riders who are mentally prepared for mud fair well. It can be very difficult to move forward on a bike when it is snowing overhead and muddy under the tires, but it is possible. The best way to deal with mud conditions is to avoid them. So, read up on your Route Descriptions, provided in The Route Packet. But if you do find yourself in the mud, releasing cables (if you have them) on brakes that set the pad to the rim can really help on up-hills, flats, and gentle descents. It is imperative that you take the time to peel the mud off your derailleur, brakes, brake pads, rims, chains, and anywhere else it collects. With a clogged chain and derailleur, you have to be very careful when shifting. You may not be able to shift at all. If you do, you could break the derailleur. You may have to peel the mud off every quarter mile for miles. You may have to get on and off to walk your bike. You may have to walk through the sagebrush with your bike beside the road to avoid impassible mud! This is what you could face out on route...and some do it with a smile.

First Aid on Route

There are no emergency medical services within easy reach of any one of the huts on either route. It is the responsibility of the group leader to collect any allergy or other pertinent medical information for the group. If someone in your group does have a medical condition or allergy, make sure the group is aware of it, and able to recognize signs of distress.

It is each group’s responsibility to bring a First Aid Kit. There are basic First Aid Kits at the huts. However, our first aid kits get pilfered regularly and, though we try to keep them well stocked, the group before may have had an emergency and cleaned the kit out or your injury may occur a great distance from the next or previous hut. First Aid Knowledge and training (including what to bring in a First Aid Kit) is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. Below is a list of recommended items you should include in your First Aid Kit:

- Liquid Iodine (for water purification) 1 fluid oz. per four riders on the trip.
- Betadine solution and or Betadine sponges for scrubbing wounds, especially road/dirt rash.
- Adhesive tape, 2 rolls per four riders. We suggest the cloth/athletic type of tape.
- Antibiotic ointment. We suggest one 15-gram tube per four riders.
- Band Aids. Assorted sizes with flex type fabric.
- Ibuprofen or the equivalent, check with your group for allergies to aspirin. We suggest that you have enough to give 400 mg. to each rider when necessary.
• Toenail clippers.
• Gauze, one roll per every two riders.
• Non-stick and regular gauze pads, eight per four riders.
• Moleskin/Mole foam or 2nd Skin packets, 2 square sheets per rider.
• Small scissors capable of cutting tape and Mole foam effectively.
• Decongestant tablets (pseudoephedrine or equivalent), 12 tablets per four riders.
• Benadryl for bites and allergic reactions. If a member of the group is allergic to nuts, bee stings or other serious allergies bring two syringes per rider with this condition. This is not a place where help is around the corner and anaphylactic shock can be a life threatening condition.
• Antibiotics for respiratory conditions or wounds that can get out of control. Please consult a physician.
• Snake bite kit.
• Sunscreen, a minimum of SPF 30. We recommend 8 oz. per every four riders.
• SPF 20 lip balm.
• Zinc oxide for out of control sunburn and nasty saddle sores.
• A needle for removing sharp things embedded in the skin.
• Anti-fungal ointment, ½ oz. per four riders.
• Cortisone cream.
• Cough Syrup such as Robitussin or its' equivalent, 1 oz. per every four riders.
• Insect Repellent. “Deet” is the ‘heat’ and the biting black flies will munch you like a buffet if you do not bring some.
• Insect Repellent (Permethrin)

Recommended Hydration Routine

Be aware that Colorado and Utah are dry climates and monitoring your fluid loss is difficult. It is very important to replace electrolytes and sugars in your body to speed up re-hydration, especially on hot days. Too much sugar however, can actually dehydrate you. Make frequent use of springs along the Standard Route. It is your responsibility, however, to filter or otherwise treat this water for purification. Most water filters found in backpacking stores will do the trick, as will purification tablets or iodine drops. Use purifying techniques according to the manufacturer’s instructions! Drinking water is provided at the huts.

Iodine Use for Water Purification on the Route

• For water purification, use a 2% tincture of iodine solution (or iodine tablets) available from your pharmacy.
• For mostly clear water, use five drops per liter. Use eight drops for turbid or murky water.
• If the water is over 70 degrees, wait 30 minutes after treatment before drinking. For colder water, allow more time as bacteria, parasites, viruses, and other organisms absorb iodine at a slower rate as the water temperature decreases.
• Water left standing overnight requires only two drops per liter.
• “Burp” your water bottle after treatment. Place a drop of iodine on the threads of your bottle. Close the cap without tightening it all the way. Loosen the cap, and then tighten it once again. Shake the bottle well, turn it upside down, and then loosen cap to let a little water leak through and air bubbles rise into the bottle. Let enough water leak out to irrigate the cap’s threads. Tighten the cap once more and wait the appropriate treatment time before drinking. For bottles with non-threaded caps, place one drop of the iodine solution on the rim, under the cap. Spin the cap, distributing the iodine. Spin the cap more and shake the bottle well. Turn upside down, and open the exit tube. Let a small amount of water exit the tube to irrigate and flush. Close the tube and let it sit until appropriate treatment time has passed before drinking.
Things to Keep in Mind While Riding

- Wear your helmet! It will save your life someday.
- When encountering motorized vehicles, ride single file down the road, do not ride wide around corners.
- On all trails, horseback riders have the right of way. If you encounter horseback riders, dismount your bike and stay on the downhill side of the trail. Also, if you encounter cattle on the trail, do not spook them. Remember these trails that you are riding were initially built by ranchers and miners. Be respectful of those that came before you.
- Monitor your body temperature. Add or remove layers accordingly. Do not get behind on hydration or core temperature.
- Plan the day’s ride around the weather. If lightning is evident in the early afternoon, get out early and beat the bad weather.
- Be prepared to get benighted. Carry a headlamp, lighter or matches, extra battery, and enough food to get you by. Plan for the best and be prepared for the worst. At the beginning and end of the season bring a small candle to help start a fire by dripping wax etc.
- Keep in contact with your group. Travel the speed of your slowest rider or make plans to regroup at predetermined points along the way-do and do not deviate from these plans! Do not make turns without everyone being in sight. Make sure everyone in the group has access to the maps.
- Be aware of animals. The mountains and canyons of this route have bears, lions, cows, bulls, and coyotes, rattle snakes, scorpions, black widows, and tarantulas. All of these critters have the potential to cause you pain.
- On either Route, once you enter the drier canyon areas, such as the approach to the Gateway Hut on the Telluride to Moab Route and the area from Dry Creek Basin Hut to halfway up the hill headed to Geyser Pass Hut on the Durango to Moab Route, you must be aware of goatheads. Goatheads are thorns that exist on small plants all over the aforementioned areas. The way to not have your tires punctured by these small thorns is to make sure that you stay on existing roads and trails. It is quite possible to get ten punctures in a tire in 10 feet.

The Hut and Hut Etiquette:

Leave No Trace
The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics is an educational, nonprofit organization dedicated to the responsible enjoyment and active stewardship of the outdoors by all people, worldwide. Leave No Trace is a national and international program designed to assist outdoor enthusiasts with their decisions about how to reduce their impacts when they hike, camp, picnic, snowshoe, run, bike, hunt, paddle, ride horses, fish, ski or climb. The program strives to educate all those who enjoy the outdoors about the nature of their recreational impacts as well as techniques to prevent and minimize such impacts. Leave No Trace is best understood as an educational and ethical program, not as a set of rules and regulations. Please visit their website and review their recommendations so that we can all work to Leave No Trace. Thank you.
https://lnt.org/learn

Cleanliness
It is essential that you consider the repercussions of your every action over the course of this trip. There is no greater a case for this argument than the one regarding cleanliness. It is imperative for multiple reasons. If you are not mindful of this you will ruin the trip for yourself, the riders behind you, and the quality of the hut experience and the environment surrounding the huts of San Juan Hut Systems.
Animals will eat anything left lying around. Word travels fast in the animal world. An infestation can occur in less than 24 hours if one fails to clean and lock up everything. **You must keep all containers, lockers, and packages closed and out of reach when you are not right there using them!** This means no crackers, toilet paper, nuts, or anything else left out or within reach of mice, pack rats, and all the other critters that inhabit the forest. Again, if you fail to do this you will have mice crawling over you at night and the next group will encounter an even grimmer scene when they arrive. **You must keep steel lockers locked and closed when you are not actively getting something out or putting something away!** Mice are opportunists and an open door is all they need. Critters will chew through anything to get to the goods, so please, keep food out of reach. In addition, wash all dishes when you are finished with them. Dirty dishes left about will also attract species not welcome in the huts.

Before leaving each morning **CLEAN THE HUT** top to bottom. Sweep, re-organize, and tidy things up. We know that occasionally bad apples leave huts in bad shape. If it means cleaning up messes that are not yours, please do the right thing and help assure those behind you do not experience the same. If there is a very slovenly group in front of you, call us when you can or when you get out and we will deal with it accordingly. The huts are supplied and serviced every 16th to 24th rider. However, it is impossible for us to monitor the day-to-day activity of every hut. Please be conscious of your fellow riders and leave the huts better than you found them. **If everybody continues doing this the huts will continue to be rodent free.**

**Propane Instructions**

The huts have stoves and lanterns fueled by propane. For your safety and ease of operation please follow the guidelines that follow.

1. To charge the gas lines when preparing to use the stove or lanterns, turn the grey valve on the propane tank **¼ turn counterclockwise. Turning the knob more will not increase gas flow and will slow the time needed to shut off gas in case of an emergency.**
2. Shut the gas off at the outside tank **every night and before leaving** the next morning. Please double-check that the gas is off! To turn the gas off, turn the grey valve in a **clockwise** direction until snug.

If a propane tank is empty, exchange it with one of the provided full reserve tanks. Use the adjustable wrench found in the kitchen area. On the empty tank, remove the “hex” style brass gas fitting located nearest to the tank’s valve. To differentiate the lantern lines from the stove line look for the regulator on the outside of the hut. Remember, gas fittings at the tank are always **reverse threaded!** This means “righty-loosey”, “lefty-tighty.” Be certain you are turning the fitting **clockwise to loosen** and **counterclockwise to tighten.**

It is **VERY IMPORTANT** to check for leaks. If you smell a sulfur-type odor, make a sudsy soap and water solution with detergent from the hut and apply it to the fittings and hoses where you suspect the leak might emanate from. Tighten fittings gently until leaks stop. Take care not to over-tighten the fittings as brass fittings may break. Please notify San Juan Hut Systems as soon as possible.

**Lighting the Lantern:**

1. Push in the lever on the side of the lantern and flip the lever to the ‘ON’ position (embossed in the metal on the side of the lamp)
   NOTE: You must push the lever **IN** before flipping the lever to the “ON” position. This disengages a mechanism in the lamp that prevents accidental movement of the lever resulting in gas leaking out.

2. Light a match and hold it beneath the mantle.
   NOTE: Do not touch the match or lighter to the mantle. Doing so may break a hole in the mantle necessitating its replacement. (If needed look for replacement mantels on the wall in the area of the lamp)
3. If the lantern does not light and you need to try again, it is important that you begin repeating the procedure from Step 1.

Turning off the Lantern:

When finished with the lantern, push lever in and turn it to the off position stopping the flow of gas. Do not force lever! It will become jammed and require taking the cover off the lantern. Simply feel for the spring and the slot it presses into and then gently rotate the lever.

Trouble Shooting the Lantern:

If the lantern is dim, and the tank has gas, look for a spider web or other blockage in the supply tube of the lamp housing. Remove the web or other obstruction with a pencil or pen.

Lighting the Stove: **Do not leave a burning stove unattended!**

1. Turn on the main gas valve located outside the hut on the propane tank.
2. On the stove, turn on the desired burner by rotating the knobs located on the stove front. Have a flame ready and over burner when gas flow begins.

Please clean any spills or messes in the stove or blackened pots and pans. **Turning the heat to high may cause the flame to emanate from the bottom of the cook pan/pot and melt the stove knob.** **Use medium/medium-high heat at the most.**

The Wood Stove

**IF A FIREBAN IS IN EFFECT, USE OF THE WOOD STOVE IS PROHIBITED!**

- Locate the fire extinguisher in hut. Make sure all hut users are familiar with its location and operation.
- You may collect fallen dry wood from the area surrounding the hut that is lying on the ground, detached from trees, and smaller than your wrist. Please **DO NOT USE** the firewood stacked at the Last Dollar Hut (the first hut on the Telluride to Moab route). This wood supply is for winter use when firewood collection is difficult in this area.
- Store only what wood and kindling you plan to burn right away inside the hut. These huts are efficient. You do not need to play Paul Bunyan and stack a cord of wood under the bunks. It is a mess to clean up.
- Pick up dead, dry wood from ground or out further from the hut. Do not break live or dead limbs off trees around hut.
- Look for dry red needles from coniferous trees as they make a good fire starter. Shavings from the interior of dry branches make good kindling.
- Open the damper in the stovepipe (if one is provided).
- Light a small starter fire, and close stove door to about ¼ inch. This will make the stove draw air properly. Listen for a rushing sound of air as you close the door to determine the proper amount of closure.
- Open and close the stove door quickly to avoid releasing smoke into the hut.
- Once the fire gets going, do not leave the stove unattended.
- Do not let the stove, or stovepipe, get glowing red-hot!
- Keep the area around and under stove free from flammables!
- Extinguish all fire in stove before leaving for the next hut. Do not use water! Anticipate the time of your departure, and stop feeding the fire as your departure time nears. Rake remaining coals to the front of the stove near the vent to help the coals burn down. You may sprinkle a cup of water on the
coals to kill the remaining embers before you leave. Please do not throw large amounts of water into the stove. It will cause rust and make it difficult for the next group to start a fire.

- **DO NOT THROW ANY ASHES UNDER THE HUT.** If you need to empty ashes from the stove, please put them in the bucket and take them outside. Dig a small whole, put the ashes in the whole, cover with excavated dirt, and stomp loose dirt down.
- Some of the lower elevation huts have extremely tinder-dry fuels around the area of the hut. There are no wood stove in these huts.

### Daily Clean Up Responsibilities

Please take ten minutes every morning and follow this procedure:

1. With a wet sponge and a touch of bleach in the water, wipe off kitchen counter thoroughly, drying with a paper towel. Discard towel into stove and burn.
2. Sweep bunks onto floor beginning with the top bunks furthest from the door, working down and towards the door.
3. Sweep under the tables, bunks, and wood stove.
4. Spray a little Simple Green onto a paper towel and wipe down the bunks.
5. Gather all swept residue (minus the non-organic materials) and dispose of it in the outside compost bin.
6. Empty the water buckets under the sink if provided. See Utensils, Pots, and Pans for more instruction.
7. **Have entire group present inside the hut before leaving to verify that the hut is clean.**

### Care of Sleeping Bags

- Please treat the zippers very gently and be careful not to snag the bags on sharp objects.
- Please do not lay sleeping bags or pads directly on the ground, inside or outside of the hut. Please use a plastic tarp as a ground sheet.
- If you spill food or drink on a bag, please clean it with mild soap and fresh water. Make sure the bag is dry before returning it to the bunk or its storage container. Hang the bag from a clothesline to dry away from nearby mouse launching pads.
- Shakeout all sleeping bags (inside out), roll them back up, and place one on each bunk.

### Water Jugs

We have to ship in all of the potable water at the huts. Please practice good water conservation ethics. This is a dry climate; please monitor your water use accordingly. Water is for drinking, cooking, and conservative-minded dishwashing. It can be impossible to keep pace with water wasters!

- **Please limit your water usage to 2 gallons per rider per day.**
- Try to fill your water bottles at the indicated locations on the Daily Standard Route Description before arriving at the hut.
- **Do not use water from the hut supply for bathing, washing your feet, or washing your bike. Do this in streams, lakes, irrigation ditches, etc.**

### Utensils, Pots, and Pans

Please meticulously clean all cookware before leaving for the next hut. We provide detergent and bleach at the huts for cleaning. Shake excess water from scrubbies and sponges before returning them to the wire basket. Return brushes to their hooks. Throw dishwater devoid of all food scraps at least 50’ away from the hut. Food scraps attract rodents and bears. Do not use metal utensils to scrape, stir, scoop, or cut food in pans with nonstick surfaces. Use paper plates as liners for the blue metal plates. This will save immensely on your clean up time and water usage. The paper plates make great fire starters. Burn all paper garbage that does not contain foil in the stove before departing.
Food Information

- Please reduce waste by using open containers first.
- Use clothes-pins to keep all bags sealed.
- Clean up spilled food inside of food lockers immediately.
- When leaving the hut, please organize the food locker for the next group.
- Keep the food locker doors closed at all times, even while you are in the hut! Rodents are brave little dudes, and they will dive in while your head is turned.

Trash Management

Please help us to minimize the trash at each hut. Trash removal from the hut uses precious resources and occupies landfill space. Please recycle, reduce, and reuse whenever possible.

- Separate out and burn all burnable trash in the wood stove when provided.
- Crush all steel and aluminum cans with the provided can crusher. This will help reduce the volume and number of loads necessary for transport to a recycling facility.
- Separate out all organic compostable food waste and scraps following the below composting procedure.

Food Composting Procedure

1. Place all uneaten food scraps and organic food waste into the food waste pail.
2. Empty the food waste pail into the right side compartment of the composting bin located outside the hut, next to compost toilet.
3. Add wood chips from the left side compartment of the composting bin, to the food scrap waste compartment and mix thoroughly with the compost bin stir and mix tools.
4. Rinse out the food waste pail with water. Please use this same water to clean the compost bin stir and mix tools.
5. If there is visible liquid in the bin, do not add more.
6. Do not pour dish water in compost bin. The soap and bleach kill the bacteria that make the composting happen!

In huts with wood stoves, please burn paper towels, plates and other burnable trash.

Composting Toilets

Composting toilets only work if people treat them properly. They compost your waste so that in a short time, it is safe to return to the environment. Please understand and respect what does and does not belong in the composting toilets.

What DOES NOT go down the Poop Chute:
(a partial list “collected” through experience)

- Your underwear or pet gerbil
- Plastic bottles and containers
- Plastic of any kind
- Foil wrappers
- Tampons and tampon applicators (they don’t biodegrade in this system)
- Sanitary hand wipes (all are synthetic and will not biodegrade) even if they say “biodegradable.” They might degrade, but it will take years.

We have to HAND PICK items that do not belong out of the crapper and your waste. We’re sure you wouldn’t want to do this job… neither do we. Please place all non-biodegradable material in the waste can provided. Do the right thing and help keep these toilets working.
What DOES go down the Poop Chute:

- Your bodily waste, liquid and solid
- Toilet paper
- Wood shavings
- Nothing else!

**Campfires are not allowed at any of the huts!** The frequent ‘tinder dry’ conditions, dry winds, and the huge availability of fuel make this region very susceptible to wild land fires. We will not accept any liability for open fires.

*Failure to comply with this rule is grounds for immediate removal from the route.*

**Things to Keep in Mind While at the Hut**

- **CONSERVE WATER!**
  - Do not use candles unless there is a problem with the propane lights.

**Clothing/Bike Equipment/Gear Lists:**

**Clothing List**

**Clothing For All Times Of Year**

You can accommodate many layering combinations for the fair weather season with a long sleeve jersey, short sleeve jersey, shorts, knee warmers, leg warmers, and arm warmers. They reduce weight, bulk and provide many combinations for the elements.

- Lightweight T-Shirt or sleeve-less shirt.
- Long sleeve shirt or jersey with a zipper-turtleneck.
- Long sleeve jacket with a high collar-medium weight.
- Cycling shorts, with the padded chamois crotch.
- Lightweight plus medium weight synthetic socks (wool early and late season).
- Riding gloves, one pair fingerless riding gloves with a well-padded palm and a second pair for cool days that are full fingered, lightly insulated (light neoprene or fleece lined).
- Waterproof or Vapor Barrier rain gear.
- Sun hat.
- Sunglasses.

**Additional Essential Clothing for the Start and End of the Season**

All material should be synthetic or wool. NO COTTON

- Wool hat, a ski, or stocking type. Try to get one which can somehow be crammed under a helmet if need be.
- Neck gaiter (for early and late season).
- Long pants such as polypropylene or capilene, medium weight or thermal biking tights without a chamois. ‘Expedition weight’ for the first and last two weeks of summer. Midsummer, you may want to consider leg warmers, however they are not as nice to hang out in during the evening.
- Mittens or lobster claws that are heavy weight wool or synthetic material with water/weather proof shells and poly-pro liners (for early or late season).
- Neoprene shoe covers/wool socks (for early or late season).
- Fleece vest (with wind stopping properties).

Be wary of affordable clothing that breathes. You are generally better off with watertight PVC material than “leak-tex” cloth. Get gear that is absolutely going to keep you dry. During a hypothermia-inducing downpour, you want to be dry! If you are suspicious, buy it and try it. Go home, put it on and stand in the shower cranked on for 15 minutes. If it works great, please let us know what the product is and where to get it!

With most of the breathable fabrics on the market, when it is raining hard, and we mean “Colorado Plateau” hard, you are going to get wet. With “Vapor Barrier,” non-breathable gear you can zip down the front, roll up the sleeves, vent the pits to let the heat escape if you get hot. Internal moisture is much warmer than the stuff from above. Ill-equipped clients can find themselves in life threatening situations due to inadequate raingear. Please get your raingear sorted out before you come. We recommend that you **always** bring cold/wet weather gear to the trailhead. Before your departure, check the 10-day forecast and plan your clothing accordingly.

Cycling shoes should be large enough to accommodate thicker wool socks, especially early or late in the season. Check your shoes at home to confirm that you have good toe movement. If they are the least bit tight, there will be trouble. Bike shoes that have a flexible sole are much more comfortable to walk in than stiff bike shoes.

**Gear List**

The following list contains Items we feel you should have with you on our routes:

- Mountain bike.
- Helmet.
- Tire patch kit. Bring three new tubes of glue and twenty patches per rider. Hint: Inspect your rim tape before departing, small abrasions or sections failing to cover eyelets completely can cause a maddening spree of unexplainable flats.
- Tubes, two heavy-duty extras per rider. Large groups may be able to reduce this especially if running tubeless to start with. Carry a few lightweight emergency spares for the group.
- Extra tires, two per four riders. We recommend the folding bead type. These often can be zip tied to your frame.
- Dollar bill or other tire boot used to cover a hole in the tire itself.
- Bike pump and CO-2 cartridge system (optional) or two pumps if you are solo. Choose compact, high volume types, such as Blackburn or Zefal.
- Large volume hydration pack, 70-100 oz. reservoir with pockets and storage capacity for jackets, gloves, and a few other immediate need items.
- Water bottles, one 16 oz. and one 20 oz. are recommended for those using hydration packs, otherwise a minimum of 3 liters per rider.
- Bike bags of about 20 liter capacity or less that fit your bike. See Repair Kits and Bike Bags/ Panniers.
- Lighter and a small candle for emergency ‘bivy’ fire starter.
- Headlamp and spare battery. (Flashlights are difficult to handle when two hands are required for a task… and generally, they are).
- Sleeping bag liner-33”x72,” or there about, depending on your height. Many good options are available on the market, check with your outdoor store or online. 1.8 or 2 oz. silk or nylon sewn in a dimensioned rectangle work well.

**Bike Repair Equipment & Tool List**

Any part of a bike can break. Recently a group broke a derailleur and it’s hanger on a trip. We list spare derailleur on our extra parts list. We did not list a derailleur hanger and our client was less than happy. We have seen frames broken into two pieces. Should we include a spare bike frame in our list of spare parts?
This is a Suggested Bike Repair Equipment & Tool List. You feel you need to bring more, or less, do so. There are a number of lightweight, compact tool kits on the market. While there is no substitute for the “Real Tool,” the weight savings is worth it. Several companies make good kit/multi-tools. However, many sell crap. We recommend Park Tool kits as they have a very high quality, durable product. For prepackaged repair kits and tools we recommend Hero Kits. Make sure what you bring meets an “inspection of logic.” Each kit should include:

- Chain-breaking tool.
- Multi-tool Allen wrench set with 3 mm-9 mm sizes. (If not all are present, be sure to add extra Allens).
- Tire levers
- Spoke wrench, for all four-nipple sizes.
- 3 mm-6 mm wrenches, preferably open-ended.
- Phillips and slotted head screw drivers that fit all needs of all heads on a bike, more than one may be necessary.
- Adjustable wrench.
- Four spare spokes and nipples, at least one fitting each spoke length on your bike.
- Spare rear derailleur. Find one that is compatible for at least one per every four riders.
- Spare brake and derailleur cables, long enough for either front or rear replacement, one set per four riders.
- Chain lube.
- Shock or fork pump for those with air spring suspensions, one per group (Based on compatibility, obviously).
- Spare set of brake pads, one set per rider. Large groups with compatible brakes may be able to bring fewer.
- Two SRAM Power Links, 9 and/or 10-speed, depending on your bikes.
- Leatherman or other multi-tool that includes a good set of needle nose pliers and a sharp knife blade.
- Duct tape; roll a good length around the tube on your bike near the seat tube for future use.
- Small coil of medium to heavy gauge wire.
- Toe straps, they repair everything duct tape cannot. Bring two per four riders.
- “In the Field” bike repair book, if necessary.

At least one member of the group should have all of the necessary parts, tools, and the knowledge to use them. Riders are responsible for checking their bikes for proper operation prior leaving home. Re-check all tires, cables, brake pads, tubes, chains, and other parts before departure from the trailhead. Be careful not to replace a chain without giving your bike a good strenuous test ride before leaving as cogs and chains wear out together and replacing one may result in a failure of the two to mesh. Mechanical troubles can really ruin a trip.

**Gear List for the minimalist:** for those of you who are handy with bikes and willing to accept a little more risk in order to go lighter here is a suggested gear list for you.

- 2 tire irons
- 1 extra inner tube (at least)
- 1 complete patch kit with different size patches
- Multitool
- Small pump
- 1 or 2 SRAM Power Links, 9 and/or 10 speed, depending on your bike/s
- Small and medium zip-ties
- A small length of malleable wire
- Optionally, a spare 5mm Allen bolt or two
- A couple of spare normal spokes of the right length, wire nipples, and tape or zip tie them tightly under the left chainstay to keep them out of the way.
- Duct tape, several feet rolled into small spool
Bring what you think you need for your trip Our list is suggested items. You are responsible for what you bring! We are not responsible for what you break, what you do not bring, or what do not know how to fix.

If you have an irreparable break-down, contact us and we will arrange for parts and or a rental bike to be brought out. We will help how we can, but may not be able to drop everything else the moment we are contacted. If you do need assistance while on the route, please relay a succinct message of where you are and what you need. Realize that we may not be able to find specific bike parts on short notice so, also include your bike size in case a rental is required. You will be responsible for the coast of the parts, delivery, and rental as needed.

San Juan Hut Systems Ten Commandments

1. Thou shall not use vehicle support. We strictly prohibited use of vehicles. Bringing vehicles on the hut system is in direct violation with the U.S. Forest Service and private landowners. Violation of this commandment results in your prompt removal from the system without opportunity to return.

2. Thou shall not sneak on extra riders. We will catch you as our routes are monitored regularly. Violation of this commandment results in your prompt removal from the system without opportunity to return. You will also incur a charge for the additional persons.

3. Thou shall not remove tools, utensils, pots, pans, plates, cups, sleeping bags, etc., etc, or any other items from the huts. They are there for a reason and you would miss them if they were gone when you arrived.

4. Thou shall not skip huts or stay extra nights. Remember, there is often a group ahead of you and behind you.

5. Thou shall not leave a pigsty hut disaster. Cleanliness is Godliness. Good hut system travelers know this.

6. Thou shall use proper bike etiquette. You all know how to be considerate travelers, so do so. Be courteous, friendly, and kind to all who share the trails with you. Remember on all trails, horseback riders have the right of way. If you encounter horseback riders, dismount your bike and stay on the downhill side of the trail. Do not spook the horses. Ride as if there was a horse around each blind corner. Horses were here first and horses originally created these trails.

7. Thou shall pack your brain. Common sense is a mandatory item. Do not suddenly forget where you are and what you are doing.

8. Thou shall conserve water! Take only what you need and leave the rest for your fellow travelers.

9. Thou shall read and understand our Terms and Conditions.

10. Thou shall have a great adventure! We are all here to have fun, build character, and make memories!
Appendix:

Shuttle Services/Rider Transportation

Telluride Based
Telluride Express 970-728-6000 www.tellurideexpress.com
Mountain Limo 888-546-6894
Tell-u-rides 970-257-9604

Durango Based
Durango Transportation 970-385-5231
Animas Transportation 970-259-1315
Buck Horn 970-769-0933
Durango Taxi 970-259-4818

Moab Based
Porcupine Shuttle 435-260-0896 www.porcupineshuttle.com
Road Runner Shuttle 435-259-9402 www.roadrunnershuttle.com
Redrock Express 435-260-0595
Coyote Shuttle 435-259-8656
Moab Coach 435-940-4212
Three Dreams 970-434-3541

Ridgway/Montrose Based
Cascade Bikes 970-249-7375

*If you hire an independent transportation or shuttle service, it is your responsibility to verify that the company maintains current and adequate insurance. San Juan Hut Systems assumes no liability for these services.

Parking Personal Vehicles

Durango to Moab Route:
Park your vehicles in the parking areas of the lodging providers where you stayed the night before. Purgatory Resort, at the trailhead, will allow guests and non-guests to leave their vehicles upon request, though they will not be responsible for vehicles or their contents. Please visit the front desk of main lodge and indicate you are a client of San Juan Hut Systems so that Security will be notified and not tag your car.

Telluride to Moab Route:
Call the Town of Telluride (970-728-2151) for the latest instructions on where they would like you to park the week you are on your trip. This changes frequently. Another option is to park your car at the Telluride Airport.

Moab:
Contact the Moab Police Department 435-259-8938 or the Moab Visitors Center 435-259-8825

Lodging by Location

Ridgway Area:
Adobe Inn 970-626-5939
Orvis Hot Springs 970.626.5324 www.orvishotsprings.com
Ridgway Lodge and Suites 970-626-5444 www.ridgwaylodgeandsuites.com
Chipeta Sun Lodge 970-626-3737 www.chipeta.com

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Moab Area:
Red Stone Inn 435-259-3500
Lazy Lizard International Hostel 435-259-6057 www.lizardheadhostel.com
Bighorn Lodge 800-325-6171 www.moabighorn.com
Apache Motel 435-259-5727 www.moabredstone.com

Durango Trailhead:
Silverpick Lodge 970-259-6600 www.silverpicklodge.com
Purgatory Resort* 970.426.7271 or 800.525.0892 www.durangomountainresort.com

Telluride: There are so many options here, hit the two main websites, but book early as it often sells out due to festivals.
www.telluridechamber.com www.visittelluride.com

Area Chambers of Commerce
Below are numbers for the area Chambers of Commerce that can help you find additional information about the area and services offered.
Telluride 970-728-4431
Moab 800-635-6622
Montrose 970-249-5000
Grand Junction 970-242-3214
Ridgway 970-626-5181
Durango 970-247-0312

Bike Shops and Bags Resources

Velorution Cycles
1077 Main Ave
Durango, CO 81301
970-259-1975
http://www.velorutioncycles.com/

2nd Ave Sports
600 E 2nd Ave
Durango, CO 81301
970-247-4525

Cliffside Ski and Bike
46825 Hwy. 550 N.
Durango, CO 81301
970-385-1461
www.cliffsideski.com

Paragon Sports/ Boot Doctors
215 W. Colorado Ave.
Telluride, CO 81435
San Juan Hut Systems Bikers’ Bible

970-728-4525
www.paragontelluride.com

Cascade Bikes
21 North Cascade Ave.
Montrose, CO 81401
970-249-7375
www.cascadebicyclesllc.com

Cascade Bikes also has a store coming to Ridgway, contact them for more details!

Chili Pepper Bikes
435-259-4688
702 South Main St
Moab, UT 84532
http://chilebikes.com

Poison Spider
497 N. Main St.
Moab Utah 84532
800-635-1792
shop@poisonspiderbicycles.com

Revelate Designs
Email: info@revelatedesigns.com
www.revelatedesigns.com/

Bedrock Bags
Durango, CO
www.bedrockbags.com

Old Man Mountain Products
23 S. Fairview, Suite C
Santa Barbara, CA 93117
888-439-6455
805-692-9950 or 805-692-9390
www.oldmanmountian.com

Emergency Contact Numbers

San Miguel County Sheriff (Telluride, CO) 970-728-1911
Montrose County Sheriff (Montrose, CO) 970-252-4023
Mesa County Sheriff (Grand Junction, CO) 970-242-6707
La Plata County Sheriff (Durango, CO) 970-247-1157
Grand County Sheriff (Monticello, UT) 435-587-2237
Telluride Medical Center 970-728-3848
Montrose Memorial Hospital 970-249-2211
Basin Clinic (Naturita, CO) 970-865-2665
Uncompahgre Medical Center (Norwood, CO) 970-327-4233
St. Mary’s Flight for Life
San Juan Hut Systems (Ridgway, CO)

800-332-4932
970-626-3033