

# Daily Standard Route Description for Telluride to Gateway Hut-to-Hut "Adventure Without the Weight"

## ***Using the Daily Route Description for the Standard Route***

*Due to the inaccuracies caused by varying calibrations in odometers, you may notice some inaccuracies in the mileages listed for the Standard Route Description in comparison to what you are seeing in the field. Therefore, please use the mileages listed here as a guideline to help you determine your location and where you need to go. In conjunction with the maps provided and those recommended, you will be able to get where you are trying to go. The \*\*\* symbol after listed directions in this route description indicate a corresponding GPS waypoint. The mileages and directional instructions are in **bold**, while warnings or hazards are marked in **red**. Water references are highlighted in **blue**.*

*Please also note that from year to year, and sometimes week to week, new roads and trails appear; this occurs particularly in the areas where gas and mining exploration is taking place. Your route, unless this description states otherwise, will almost always follow the most used option. Do Not start second guessing yourself... listen to your instincts. Enjoy your ride.*

## **Day One: Telluride to Last Dollar Hut**

<b>Total Mileage</b>	<b>Starting Elevation:</b>	<b>Ending Elevation:</b>	<b>Max. Elevation:</b>
13.1	8750'	10,980'	

### **Alternate Route Information:**

Mill Creek Trail 637, take Trail 418 over to Sheep Creek/Deep Creek Junction with Last Dollar Road, continue on Standard Route. Consult with Paragon Sports in Telluride for trail information. This is an Advance Trail.

### **Standard Route:**

- 0.0 Start at Round-About at Telluride High School** (Colorado Avenue). Pick up the paved bike trail beginning at the Telluride High School on the North side of the Highway and follow to "Society Turn". \*\*\*
- 2.8 Cross Highway just before the intersection with Airport Road, also known as Society Turn.** Airport Road is Last Dollar Road. Begin ascending toward the Telluride Airport. \*\*\*
- 4.8 Turn Right onto dirt road at the top of the airport road** (with hangars and runway in view); continuing on Last Dollar Road (a stop sign faces the other way).
- 6.9 Descend approximately 400 feet into the Deep Creek drainage and cross a small concrete bridge.**

## Daily Standard Route Description for Telluride to Gateway Hut-to-Hut "Adventure Without the Weight"

- 8.3 Continue straight passing Deep Creek Road on your Left just after bridge.** Continue straight and climbing. Passing Aldasoro Ranch Barn, the road widens through the new Grayhead subdivision. You will encounter many turnoffs with names and 'private' signs. You will want to stay on Last Dollar Road.
- 10.4 Road crosses Willow Creek.** Uncompahgre Forest Sign.
- 10.6 Bear Right at 'Y' intersection just after the Uncompahgre National Forest sign,** following Last Dollar Road.  
*DO NOT GO STRAIGHT or you will dead end.*
- 11.6 Continue Straight** pass an old homestead without a roof on Left and cross Summit Creek. Begin climbing switchbacks! \*\*\*  
*There is a spring just before the creek on your Right, with water coming from a metal pipe!*
- 12.8 Continue to the top of switchback number three and STOP.** You will have passed the Whipple Trailhead on switchback two. This is the top of Last Dollar Pass.  
*DO NOT continue down the North side.*
- 13.1 Turn Right (East)** at the top of Last Dollar Pass. The hut is up the ridge about one quarter mile and 300 vertical feet. Go directly up the rocky and steep road at the edge of the trees. This road is not ride-able; push your bikes up the ridge. **Do Not follow the road near the Alder Creek Trailhead, which turns Left into the woods.** Continue up the ridge, with a grand view of Mt. Wilson to your right. **The Last Dollar Hut will come into view on the Left side when you are about 70' away.** \*\*\*

*Congratulations! You have completed Day One! From the hut, you can hike into the Sneffels Wilderness by continuing up the ridge toward Han Shan, the large rock knob that is visible as you approach the hut. The Whipple Trail and the Alder Creek Trail are good 'out and back' hikes. These trails are designated 'Wilderness' and therefore mountain biking is not permitted. To the South you can see Sunshine Peak, Lizard Head, Wilson Peak, and Dolores Peak. To the West you can see the La Sal Mountains.*

# Daily Standard Route Description for Telluride to Gateway Hut-to-Hut "Adventure Without the Weight"

## **Day Two: Last Dollar Hut to Spring Creek Hut**

<b>Total Mileage</b>	<b>Starting Elevation:</b>	<b>Ending Elevation:</b>	<b>Max. Elevation:</b>
27.0	10,980'	9200'	

*Note: High Lightning Exposure Areas second half of today's ride.*

### **Alternate Route Information:**

No Alternate Route. Avoid potential mud at 62X/60X area mentioned around mile 12.0

### **Standard Route:**

- 0.0** Descend back to Last Dollar Pass on North side. **This is not the way you came up, but out the door of the hut and to your Left.** Please walk your bike down this section to help control erosion. As soon as the trail is wide enough for a truck, begin riding and descend back to the top of Last Dollar Pass.
- 0.0** **Turn Right onto Last Dollar Road**, dropping down the North side.  
*Potential mud section for the next six miles.*
- 1.2** **Vista point** with views of Hastings Mesa below and La Sal Mountains in the distance...your final hut destination just before Moab.
- 3.9** **Cross Alder Creek** and enter open meadows.
- 5.5** **Bear Right at intersection with Sawpit Road**, continue on Last Dollar Road. \*\*\*
- 7.9** **Pass an old ranch on Left** near San Juan Vista Subdivision. This old ranch was used in the filming of the movie "True Grit" with John Wayne.
- 10.5** **Turn Left onto Highway 62, after a descent.** Fast downgrade on pavement.
- 11.6** **Turn Right onto 62X Road.** \*\*\*
- 16.2** **Junction with "San Juan Ranch Road" (Z60/60X). Keep on 62X.**
- 17.4** Old homestead seen across wide valley to your Left.
- 19.0** San Juan Ranch gate with sign, JJ6/597.
- 19.5** Road 58.50/JJ6 intersection.
- 21.0** **Go Left at 11 Road.**

# Daily Standard Route Description for Telluride to Gateway Hut-to-Hut "Adventure Without the Weight"

- 21.2 Turn Right onto the Dave Wood Road. \*\*\***
- 23.2 Descend** gently into a large valley under high-tension wires, passing TLC Ranch on Right and cross Horsefly Creek.
- 24.1 Go Right and Up at the Intersection with sign for Sanborn Park. \*\*\***
- 25.4** *Johnson Spring on Right! There is good water to drink from the black hose sticking out of an aspen corral. Please fill all water bottles here before continuing on to hut! It has recently been reported that this spring was running slow and may be dry.*
- 25.8 Turn Left onto Divide Road** at the Dave Wood Road and Divide Road intersection, with a sign for Columbine Pass. \*\*\*
- 26.1 Turn Right at a sign reading "Spring Creek Trail" and cross first cattle guard.**  
*The Spring Creek Trail sign has been known to go missing so recognize that it is only a short distance from the Left turn onto Divide Road and this Right turn. There is a road marker, RD 536, that is small, wooden and sits very low to the ground.*
- 27.0 Cross second cattle guard and after a third cattle guard begin to look for a small footpath on your Left which leads to the hut. The Spring Creek Hut is a very short distance and you will see it immediately. \*\*\***

# Daily Standard Route Description for Telluride to Gateway Hut-to-Hut "Adventure Without the Weight"

## **Day Three: Spring Creek Hut to Columbine Hut**

<b>Total Mileage</b>	<b>Starting Elevation:</b>	<b>Ending Elevation:</b>	<b>Max. Elevation:</b>
34.0	9200'	9205'	

### **Alternate Route Information:**

For Runners, look for "Runner's Route" information in the hut.

### **Standard Route:**

- 1.0 Backtrack to Divide Road;** Go Right (North) toward Columbine Pass.
- 3.5 Continue on Divide Road.** First San Juan Overlook. Between here and the next overlook riders pass several FS Road on the Left and Right. Stay on the main road.
- 5.6** 2<sup>nd</sup> San Juan Overlook.
- 8.2** Spring Creek Trailhead sign on Right. 402.9A Road. \*\*\*
- 9.4** Beaver Dams Road 524.
- 10.2** 3<sup>rd</sup> San Juan Overlook.
- 13.5** Road 523, Little Red Spring.
- 15.1 Go Left at the Intersection of Highway 90, a dirt road also know as 540 Road, and cattle guard.** \*\*\*
- 15.9** Iron Springs Campground on Left.
- 16.1 Bear Right at intersection for Divide Road 402 and Old Highway 90,** continuing on Divide Road 402 toward Columbine Pass. Old Highway 90 turns to Left.
- 16.7 Passing Transfer Road 508 East on your Right, continue on Divide Road 402.**
- 17.1 Go Left at cattle guard,** bypassing Transfer Road which goes to Olathe, continue on to Antone Springs on your Left.
- 18.6** West Antone Spring 559 on Left. \*\*\*
- 20.3** Delta/Nucla Road 603 on Left. Sign for Howser Cow Camp on Left.

# Daily Standard Route Description for Telluride to Gateway Hut-to-Hut "Adventure Without the Weight"

- 21.5** Pool Creek Trail head on Right.
- 23.1** East Bull Road 546 on the Right.
- 31.0** Tabeguache Overlook on Left. \*\*\*  
*Possible cell phone transmission site.*
- 31.7** **Continue Right** at Columbine Pass.
- 32.5** *Columbine Campground. There is good water available from the spring if it has not destroyed. Please fill all water bottles before continuing to hut. The road across from the campground leads to several small ponds.*
- 32.7** **Continue on Divide Road 402 to the "T" intersection** (Divide Road 402 and 25 Mesa Road-503). **Turn left toward Windy Point.** \*\*\*  
*If you come to a cattle guard that is 2 miles past the "T" intersection of, you have gone too far. Approximately 200 yards south of the hut is an interesting area of rock to hang out.*
- 34.0** **Continue on Divide Road for approximately 2 miles.**
- Watch for green gate on Right. Continue past gate to first trail on your Left. There will be a small brown post at the beginning of this trail.**
- Take this small road on the Left. Follow this small non-gravel road for approximately 200 yards to the hut. You will see The Columbine Hut almost immediately.** \*\*\*

*Congratulations you have completed your third day! Look forward to showers tomorrow at The Graham Ranch Hut!*

# Daily Standard Route Description for Telluride to Gateway Hut-to-Hut "Adventure Without the Weight"

## Day Four: Columbine Hut to Graham Ranch Hut

Total Mileage	Starting Elevation:	Ending Elevation:	Max. Elevation:
36.4	9205'	8300'	

### Alternate Route Information:

Alternate Routes do not have great views in comparison to the standard route.

### Standard Route:

- 0.0 Return to the Divide Road and go Left toward Windy Point.**
- 1.2 Continue on Divide Road.** Sawmill Mesa Road / Cattle guard, entrance to Love Mesa Loop.
- 4.7 Lockhart Mesa Road. \*\*\***
- 9.3 Windy Point, with views of the La Sal Mountains in the distance. \*\*\***
- 13.3** Leave Montrose County, Enter Mesa County.
- 16.2 Sign for Monument Hill. \*\*\***
- 19.7** Campbell Point Road 411.
- 22.0** Sign for Uncomphagre Butte.
- 22.6** California Spring.
- 24.9 Continue on 402 RD.** Mesa Creek turn off.
- 26.5 Continue on 402 RD/Divide Road.** Road 408/Tabeguache Trail turns Right. \*\*\*
- 28.7 Cold Springs Ranger Station on Right. NO WATER! \*\*\***
- 30.5 Start Descent.** Grand Mesa visible in the distance to the North.
- 31.6 Start Ascent.** Road bends to Right out of bottom.
- 32.8** *Divide Forks Campground on Left. Please fill up water here if spring not destroyed. \*\*\**
- 33.1 Continue Right on Divide Road (402 Road) at the Grand Junction and Uranium Road Junction (402/404). Continue down Divide Road (Road 402) past Big Creek Trail (637).**

## Daily Standard Route Description for Telluride to Gateway Hut-to-Hut "Adventure Without the Weight"

**36.1** Continue to **but DO NOT CROSS next cattle guard**. Look for two signs on the Left posted on trees that say "Private Drive."

**36.4** Go Left at these "Private Drive" signs and continue down this road until you see a small log cabin with a metal door and horse corrals. This is the "Big Creek Cabin." The Graham Ranch Hut sits 100' above the old cabin. \*\*\*

*The Graham Ranch is owned and operated by Tam and Deana Graham. Enjoy your first and only shower on Route! When using the Graham's shower house please be VERY conservative with water. Get wet, turn water off, soap up, turn water on and rinse. This water conservation is extremely important. The shower house and toilet are 100 yards past the hut on the East side of the road in the grey concrete block building with green roof. Please use our composting toilet.*



# Daily Standard Route Description for Telluride to Gateway Hut-to-Hut "Adventure Without the Weight"

## Day Five: Graham Ranch Hut to Gateway Hut

Total Mileage	Starting Elevation:	Ending Elevation:	Max. Elevation:
32.2	8300'	4560'	

### Alternate Route Information:

Consult map on the wall in your hut. Two options are available: Ute Creek Trail and Mule Trail. **Mule Trail has currently been closed by the BLM.**

### Alternate 1: Ute Creek Trail:

Look for "4X4" sign post with sign for Ute Creek #608, approximately 6.5 miles into the ride on the Standard Route. The Ute Creek Trail is an Intermediate Trail with small, short spots of Advanced Trail riding. Follow this to Snowshoe Trail #607 for junction with Snowshoe Trail. Go Left (West), uphill at this point and rejoin the standard route.

*Once at junction with Snowshoe Trail, DO NOT continue North down into Ute Creek Canyon! There are still several abandoned bikes down in this canyon. We repeat you don't want to go down there.*

### Alternate 2: Mule Trail:

The BLM closed this trail due to no non-private exit for ¼ mile at the bottom of the trail. Sorry folks.

### Standard Route:

- 0.0** Backtrack from cabin 3.4 miles and make a Right to Divide Forks/Uranium Road intersection. Go Right on Uranium Road / 404 Road. \*\*\*
- 6.3** Pass Rim Trail Road 416 (Wolf Hill, Big Pond) on Right. \*\*\*
- 6.7** Ute Creek Road 608, marker on right, serves as Alternate Route Option #1.  
*If you are going to ride the Ute Creek Trail, do not take the dirt trail that leads to the right from the 4X4 post marker. This incorrect trail DOES NOT go down into Ute Creek. When standing on the Uranium Road, go straight away from the Uranium Road and the 4 x 4 post (and not to the right) and start dropping into a draw where you will quickly define the Ute Creek Trail.*
- 7.8** Descend 2000' or more into Indian Creek and/or Uranium Road. The sign for Massey Bench is on the left and faces the opposite direction.
- 8.4** Ute Creek Cut Off (659) **DO NOT TAKE THIS CUT OFF!!!**
- 10.3** Leonard's Saddle / 414 Road \*\*\*
- 11.7** Gate and cattle guard, bottom of first descent.

## Daily Standard Route Description for Telluride to Gateway Hut-to-Hut "Adventure Without the Weight"

- 14.3 Go Right at sign for Gateway, 6 3/10 Road towards Pine Mountain Road.** On the Right is a view of Wolf Hill.
- 15.8 Begin Long Ascent.** Calamity Creek with a brown post on Right.
- 19.2 At the four-way intersection with a sign reading "Gateway, Highway 141 – 9 miles", take the road over cattle guard, to the Right and start up hill. \*\*\***
- 20.6 Ute Creek Alternate meets back with Standard Route on Right. \*\*\***
- 22.2 Continue Straight at the Intersection of 10 8/10 Road and 6 3/10 Road.**  
Standard Route descends down the Niche Road to Gateway.  
**10 8/10, aka 405-36, takes you to the Mule Trail which served as Alternate 2. \*\*\***
- 25.5 Enter flash flood zone. \*\*\***
- 27.9 Go Left toward Gateway at Stop sign and paved Highway 141. \*\*\***
- 32.2 Pass through the town of Gateway and look for 4 1/2 Road on your Right... Turn Right at next driveway just before the bridge crossing the Dolores River. Follow this road past old sheds and you have about 1/2 mile left before reaching the hut. Stay in the tire tracks or walk your bike to avoid flat tires caused by sharp "goatheads" (small thorns). The beige-stained Gateway Hut sits under tall cottonwood trees about 50 yards from river. \*\*\***

*Congratulations! You have completed your 142.7 mile ride!*

*Gateway Canyons Resort, built over the past 5 years, offers a bar, grocery/convenience store, restaurant and hotel accommodations for those needing a little luxury at the end of their ride.*