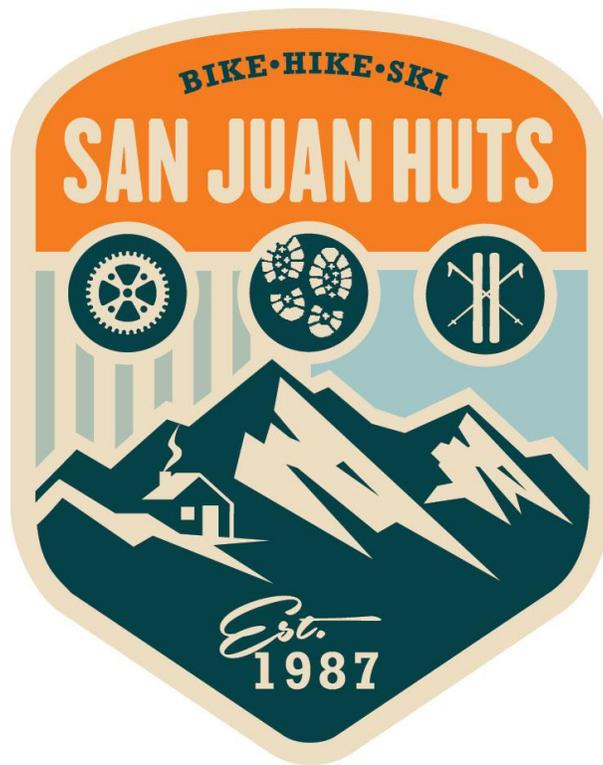


# The Hikers' Bible



A guide for what you need  
and what you don't need  
to hike the Sneffels Traverse!

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*San Juan Hut Systems' mission is to provide low impact, human powered, lightweight backcountry travel opportunities for the independent adventurer at a practical price. We have devoted over twenty five years to creating and defining destination hut-to-hut backcountry travel. We take the weight out of back packing by offering cozy well supplied huts.*

Hello San Juan Huts Hiker!

If you have received this “Hiker’s Bible,” you are either considering a hike through the Sneffels Range, or you have already reserved your departure date. We have created this guide to help you decide if this is a hike for you — or to help you plan the trip.

The Hikers’ Bible is intended to be a tool for you, the hiker. It does not take the place of common sense and ultimately you are responsible for yourself out on the route. The Hikers’ Bible will answer your initial questions such as: How do I reserve a departure date? What do I need to bring? What is provided in the huts? 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 Hikers’ 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 user driven, providing future users with information from previous 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 Hikers’ Bible: **For those who have reserved a departure date... print The Hikers’ Bible, read it, and then take it on your hike!** It contains valuable information for your hike 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 by a non refundable payment in full.
- Payments are non-refundable, but can be extended to any available date in the original booking season or the next season.
- Adding last minute hikers is not a problem if there is hut space still available on your departure date. Departure dates can be changed based on availability.
- Reservations are **only** taken over the phone.
- 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.

### Cancellations and Rescheduling Policy

- In the event one must cancel their reservation, you can reschedule (once) for any day in the original booking season or the next. **Refunds are not issued** by San Juan Hut Systems.
- 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 hike.

### Route Descriptions, Maps and Hut Key

San Juan Hut Systems has a two part Route Packet that is provided to individual hikers and to group leaders who then disperse the packet to their group. The first part of The Route Packet is an email containing a Route Description, GPS Track, Liability Waiver, Group Roster, and Route Checklist. 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 route and some alternate trails. This second part of The Route Packet is sent when San Juan Huts has received full payment for the trip, the Liability Waiver(s) for you and your group, and your current Group Roster.

## **Planning Your Trip**

### **Airports**

- Hikers may fly into Montrose Regional Airport.
- Hikers may fly into Grand Junction, but be advised that this airport can be over three hours drive to either trailhead.
- Denver International Airport is an eight hour drive to either trailhead.

### **Transportation**

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

1. Getting from the airport to Ouray, Ridgway, or Telluride.
2. Getting to the starting trailhead.
3. Getting from the end trailhead to your hotel/ camp ground.
4. Getting from your Hotel to the airport.

### **1. Getting To Your Hotel**

When flying into Montrose or Grand Junction and needing to get to Ouray, consider using one of several shuttle companies listed in the Appendix. These shuttle services can take you into the town of Telluride and drop you off at the front door of your hotel.

## **2. Shuttling From the Ouray Trailhead to Last Dollar Pass Trailhead Above Telluride (The Start Of The Sneffels Traverse).**

If you have booked a shuttle with San Juan Huts to run this shuttle, we will have you meet us at our office in Ridgway, CO early on the morning you start your hike. You can follow us to your ending trailhead (or at your hotel) in Ouray and then get in with us and we will drive you to the start of your hike. This is normally the top of Last Dollar Pass above Telluride. **Occasionally the roads are too slick to safely make it up this 4x4 road and we will drop you off at Box Factory, the alternative access point for North Pole (the first) hut.** We can make some special accommodations to this schedule, but make sure to communicate with our office before your trip.

If you are driving your own shuttle, it usually makes the most sense to leave one car either at the trailhead in Ouray (or at your hotel). This vehicle does not need to be a 4x4. Then, drive around to Telluride and up to Last Dollar Pass in a 4x4 vehicle with good tires. The trailhead is about 200ft to the northeast of the pass and is labeled with a Forest Service sign as the "Alder Creek Trail". The main driving obstacle on Last Dollar road is slippery roads when wet. Beware that the south side of Last Dollar Road can be very dangerous if conditions are wet. **Do not drive up the south side of Last Dollar Pass if the road conditions are wet.** This road can quickly turn to greasy mud and your vehicle could easily slide off the road tumbling hundreds of feet down the steep hillside. The north side of Last Dollar Pass is slightly better when wet, but still has some spots that can be scary if they get muddy. If it is not appropriate to drive up Last Dollar Pass, you can access the North Pole Hut from the Box Factory. This will reduce your hike from 8.6 miles to 3.1 miles. You will retrace your steps the next day for the first 3.1 miles if you choose this option. Alternatively, we can drop you on the south side of Last Dollar Pass and you can hike an additional two miles. This makes for a long day and you need to be physically and mentally prepared for it.

## **Where to Stay**

There are many choices to fit all budgets. Please check the appendix for a list of lodging by location or the Travel Resources option at [www.sanjuanhuts.com/travel-resources](http://www.sanjuanhuts.com/travel-resources).

## **Altitude & Health Considerations**

These hiking routes are demanding. Although they are well within the capabilities of many hikers, you should not underestimate the difficulty of the trip. Hiking three to eight hours a day back to back presents its own challenge. Hiking 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 hiking 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 two to three liters of water and replenish from streams and creeks along the way making sure to purify your water. Hydrate your way across the route and it will seem much friendlier. 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. Electrolyte mixes, like the Gatorade or Scratch Labs, are also important.

For the most up to date information on altitude illness go to this website:

<http://www.hypoxia.net/index.htm> or [www.altitude.org](http://www.altitude.org)

If you are currently taking medications, or have preexisting health issues, that would compromise your body at altitude, please consult your physician before reserving your Hut Trip and let your Group Leader be advised of any medical conditions.

## **What Is At The Huts And What You Need To Pack In Your Pack**

### **Your hiking huts are supplied with the following:**

- Eating/Cooking Utensils
- Plates, cups, bowls
- Pots and pans
- Pot Holders
- Two Burner Propane Stove
- Propane
- Wood Burning Stove
- Fire Extinguisher
- Propane Lanterns/Mantels
- Dish Soap
- Bleach
- Sleeping Pads and bags
- Composting Toilet

### **What to bring with you:**

#### Suggested Equipment for Backcountry Hut Use

- Sleeping Bag liner (rectangular)
- Backpack (medium to large) 30 to 50 L
- Synthetic hiking pants or shorts
- Headlamp and extra batteries
- Excellent rain jacket with attached hood
- Long sleeve polypropylene shirt
- Wool Sweater or fleece or synthetic light “puffy”
- Short sleeve shirt
- Hat
- Extra pair of socks
- Gaiters for early or late season
- UV protected sunglasses
- Sunscreen (SPF 15 or more)
- Kitchen matches or lighter
- Trash Bags
- Lighter and Fire starter/newspaper
- Candles
- Map and compass
- Water Bottles
- Iodine or other water treatment (pump, iodine, uv scanner)
- Food adequate enough for length of trip (with extra snacks for emergency)
- First Aid Kit with Blister Kit and any needed prescription medications
- Reading Material/Cards/Games
- Light weight breakfast, lunch, and dinner food

## **First Aid**

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 is 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:

- Disinfectant like Betadine, Peroxide, or our favorite iodine (it can also be used as water purification).
- Adhesive tape, 2 rolls per four hikers. We suggest the cloth/athletic type of tape.
- Antibiotic ointment.
- 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 hiker when necessary.
- Aspirin
- Toenail clippers.
- Gauze.
- Moleskin/Mole foam or 2<sup>nd</sup> Skin packets, 2 square sheets per hiker.
- Small scissors capable of cutting tape and Mole foam effectively.
- Decongestant tablets (pseudoephedrine or equivalent), 12 tablets per four hikers.
- CPR Mask
- 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 hiker with this condition. This is not a place where help is around the corner and anaphylactic shock can be a life threatening condition.
- Sunscreen, a minimum of SPF 30.
- SPF 20 lip balm.
- Cold medication tablets.
- Insect repellent.

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 bring or what you do not bring.

## **The Hut and Hut Etiquette**

Destination Hut Operations and Instructions

### **Water**

Obtaining water: the water source varies for each hut. Please find directions to nearest water source in the written route descriptions. Use blue 5 gallon water jugs to carry water from the nearest source back to the hut. Treat your water with your preferred treatment method (iodine, filter, uv scanner, etc). Please treat this water in your own containers. Please rinse out the jugs with a little bleach water before you leave

### **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 in the woodshed. 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 and a small amount that will be dry for the next group. 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 on, around, and under stove free from flammables.
- Extinguish all fire in stove before leaving for the next hut. 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 hole, put the ashes in the hole, pour appropriate amount of water on them, cover with excavated dirt, and stomp loose dirt down.

## **Propane**

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)

2. 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. This may take a minute.

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.

## **Cooking**

Use the propane cooking stove for cooking. The woodstove may also be used. Try to cook an amount of food that will be eaten to avoid any excess food waste. Throw excess food waste in the bear proof compost bin located near the composting toilets. Add 1/2 scoop of wood chips to food scraps. Do not put pasta or dish water in the compost bins.

## **Dishes**

Use one tub as a soap tub and another as a rinse tub. Only use a small amount of dish soap in the dishwater. Use a bleach rinse for final rinse (1 tsp. bleach to a gallon of water). After dishes are clean, return them to the shelf in an organized fashion. Make sure that tubs are cleaned and rinsed of any dish soap and dirty residue. Remove any food bits from the dish water and then broadcast the water at least 50 feet away from the hut.

## **Trash**

Haul out ALL TRASH especially glass. DO NOT leave half consumed bottles of alcohol or unused food behind! Paper products and uneaten food scraps may be burned in the wood stove. DO NOT burn tinfoil, plastic products, glass, etc.

## **Care of Sleeping Bags**

- Use a sleeping bag liner.

- 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.
- Shake out all sleeping bags (inside out), roll them back up, and place one on each bunk.

### **Food Composting Procedure**

1. Place all un-eaten food scraps and organic food waste into the green bear box outside the hut.
2. 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.
3. If there is visible liquid in the bin, do not add more.
4. Do not pour dishwater in compost bin. The soap and bleach kill the bacteria that make the composting happen!

### **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. They also leave substantial impact on the grounds and use up firewood in the area. We will not accept any liability for open fires. Failure to comply with this rule is grounds for immediate removal from the route.

### **Before You Leave The Hut, Follow These Daily Cleaning Steps.**

Please take ten minutes every morning and follow this procedure:

1. Use the dish bins provided (one for soap, one for bleach, and one for rinse) to wash all dishes and put them back on the shelves. Food scraps can go in the green metal "Bear Bins" outside. Broadcast used dishwater away from the hut.
2. Empty the water buckets under the sink if provided.
3. Return Crazy Creek chairs to one pile and generally 'tidy up'.
4. Use simple green and a paper towel to wipe down each sleeping pad. Put the papertowel in the stove to be burned.
5. Sweep bunks onto floor beginning with the top bunks furthest from the door, working down and towards the door.
6. If the floor is muddy, or otherwise needs to be cleaned, use the large sponge and black bucket (often under a bunk) to wipe down the floor.
7. Remember to turn off the propane.
8. Empty the water buckets under the sink if provided.
9. Have entire group present inside the hut before leaving to verify that the hut is clean.
10. Pat yourself on the back for a job well done. We, and the hikers behind you, say "Thanks!"

If everybody continues to do this the huts will continue to be rodent free and enjoyable living space while on the trail.

## **On the Route**

### **Communication**

There are areas of the Sneffels Traverse hike where you will not get cell service. With Verizon you will get service (at least enough to text out) from most high points and ridges. If you are not comfortable with this, we recommend bringing a Spot, Delorme, or Sat Phone. See the Appendix for rental information.

### **Weather**

For most of the hiking season highs will be in the 60-70's and lows will be in the 40-50's. June is generally stable weather but will likely still have some snowy/muddy sections of trail. You may want gaiters or snowshoes. July and August bring the warmest temperatures as well as afternoon thunderstorms. The weather can change quickly in the mountains, so be prepared and aware.

Bring extra clothes to Colorado, 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 Seven-Day Forecast!**

## **Lightning**

Lightning is a serious consideration on this hike. It can be extremely violent at any time during the hiking 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:

- Meadows (Cocan Flats, Sunnyside, and Moonshine Park, Etc.)
- High areas and ridges (the Blue Lakes alpine basin, Wilson Creek Summit, etc.)

Be aware of the phenomenon known simply as “afternoon buildup.” This is a common summer occurrence where cold mountain air pushes around hot air from the desert, encounters contributing barometric factors, then culminates in a showdown that can let loose lightning and severe weather. It may occur as early as 11AM or earlier and continue as late as 5PM. The extremes for most activity are between Noon and 4PM. Plan your departure and day’s hike 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!** 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!

## **Water Purification on the Route**

- Water Filters or Steri Pens are options for water purification.
- Iodine tablets are light small and easy to use and available at most outdoor stores. Follow the instructions on the label.
- An alternative for water purification is 2% tincture of iodine solution 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 Hiking**

- Monitor your body temperature. Add or remove layers accordingly. Do not get behind on hydration, blood sugar (snacks) or core temperature.

- Plan the day's hike 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 hiker 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 and respectful of animals. The mountains of this route have bears, lions, cows, bulls, and coyotes. All of these critters have the potential to cause you pain.

### **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, hike 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.

[www.lnt.org/learn](http://www.lnt.org/learn)

1. Thou shall not remove tools, utensils, pots, pans, plates, cups, sleeping bags, etc, or any other items from the huts. They are there for a reason and you would miss them if they were not there for you when you arrived.
2. Thou shall not leave a pigsty hut disaster. Cleanliness is next to Godliness. Good hut system travelers know this. Read and follow the Daily Cleaning Steps found in the Hiker's Bible.
3. Thou shall use proper trail 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.
4. Thou shall not sneak on extra hikers. 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.
5. Thou shall not have outside campfires.
6. Thou shall not burn winter firewood stored in the wood sheds.
7. Thou shall be responsible for your dog if you choose to bring one. This means keeping it from barking or bothering people or wildlife, not leaving it in the hut unattended, cleaning the hut EXTRA well, scooping all dog poop into the composting toilet (remember, no plastic down the chute), removing and returning any mouse poison that might be in reach of your pet. Bringing your four legged friend is a privilege, please don't spoil this for others.
8. Thou shall pack your brain. Common sense is a mandatory item. Do not suddenly forget where you are and what you are doing. Do not call 911 unless it is a true emergency. The owner's cell phone numbers are provided in the Appendix if you need help after hours, we will do our best to help you out. Please do not abuse this. There are times when all owners will be out of cell range or unable to answer.
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!

## Shuttle Services/Hiker Transportation to and from our Region

### Telluride Area

Western Slope Hikes	970-626-5121	Andy, who runs Western Slope Hikes, is a past SJH employee, knows what you are doing, and is very helpful.
Mountain Limo	888-546-6894	<a href="http://mountain-limo.com/">http://mountain-limo.com/</a>
Telluride Express	970-728-6000	<a href="http://www.Tellurideexpress.com">www.Tellurideexpress.com</a>

### Grand Junction - Telluride

Western Slope Rides	970-626-5121	Andy, who runs Western Slope Hikes, is a past SJH employee, knows what you are doing, and is very helpful.
Three Dreams	970-434-3541	<a href="http://www.threedreamsllc.com/">http://www.threedreamsllc.com/</a>
Hertz Rent a Car	970-243-0747	<a href="http://www.hertz.com">www.hertz.com</a>
Mountain Limo	888-546-6894	<a href="http://mountain-limo.com/">http://mountain-limo.com/</a>
Telluride Express	970-728-6000	<a href="http://www.Tellurideexpress.com">www.Tellurideexpress.com</a>

\*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.**

## Lodging by Location

### Ouray Area:

A few of the options here

Box Canyon Lodge & Hot springs: 970-325-4981. 45 3rd Ave, Ouray, CO 81427 [www.boxcanyonouray.com](http://www.boxcanyonouray.com)

- Steam caves and hot springs and spa, down town location

Victorian Inn: 970-325-4981. 45 3rd Ave, Ouray, CO 81427.

[www.boxcanyonouray.com](http://www.boxcanyonouray.com)

Twin Peaks Lodge: 970-325-4427. 125 3rd Ave, Ouray, CO 81427

[www.twinpeakslooding.com](http://www.twinpeakslooding.com)

Secret Garden B&B: 970-325-4226. 101 6th Ave, Ouray, CO 81427

[www.secretgardenouray.com](http://www.secretgardenouray.com)

Beaumont Hotel: 970-325-7000. 505 Main St, Ouray, CO 81427

[www.beaumonthotel.com](http://www.beaumonthotel.com)

- Historic "nice" hotel with central location. Spa service available.

Riverside Inn & Cabins: 970-325-4061. 1804 N Main St, Ouray, CO 81427

[www.ourayriversideinn.com](http://www.ourayriversideinn.com)

- Private 'cabins', pet friendly, a bit outside of town.

Comfort Inn: 970-325-7203. 191 5th Ave, Ouray, CO 81427

[www.choicehotels.com](http://www.choicehotels.com)

### Ridgway Area:

Often the most affordable and sunny option with great restaurants.

Adobe Inn 970-626-5939 Affordable and attached to great Mexican restaurant.

Orvis Hot Springs 970.626.5324 Optional clothing pools. [www.orvishotspings.com](http://www.orvishotspings.com)

Chipeta Sun Lodge 970-626-3737 [www.chipeta.com](http://www.chipeta.com)

Ridgway Lodge and Suites 970-626-5444 [www.ridgwaylodgeandsuites.com](http://www.ridgwaylodgeandsuites.com)

Ridgway State Campground 970-626-5822 [www.cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/Ridgway](http://www.cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/Ridgway)

**Telluride:** There are so many options here, hit the two main websites, but book early as it often sells out due to festivals. Unless you are running your own shuttle, it will be easier to base out of Ouray.

[www.visitTelluride.com](http://www.visitTelluride.com) or [www.Telluridechamber.com](http://www.Telluridechamber.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	866-237-5341
Montrose	970-249-5000

Grand Junction 970-242-3214  
Ridgway 970-626-5181

## **Outdoor Stores**

### **Jagged Edge Telluride**

223 E. Colorado Ave  
Telluride, CO 81435  
970-728-9307

### **Ouray Mountain Sports**

732 Main St.  
PO Box 500  
Ouray, CO 81427  
970-325-4282

### **Alpine Luddites**

308 6th Ave  
Ouray, Colorado  
81427  
alpineluddites@gmail.com  
970-980-6908

### **Paragon Sports/ Boot Doctors**

215 W. Colorado Ave.  
Telluride, CO 81435  
970-728-4525

**Emergency Contact Numbers**

**San Juan Hut System's Internal Numbers:** For most situations where you need help, we will be able to help you the best as we are the most familiar with the terrain, your route, and the huts. Please try our numbers before calling 911 unless it is a life threatening emergency. Please do not abuse this privilege. These are our private cell phones and there may be times when we are not in service.

Joe and Anne Ryan	970-318-1088 or 970-318-0885
Kelly Ryan Zokaites	970-708-2112
Dan Zokaites	540-392-5731

**Call 911 or the following numbers for a life threatening emergency:**

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
San Juan 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	800-332-4923
<b>San Juan Hut Systems (Ridgway, CO)</b>	<b>970-626-3033</b>